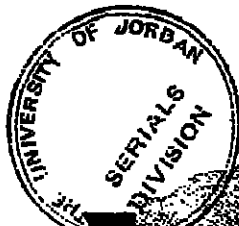


Walesa retracts presidential 'quest'

WARSAW (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa told reporters Wednesday that he was misunderstood when he said he would run for president, and he meant only that reforms in Poland should be speeded up. Walesa said his "metaphor" to the Polish news agency PAP Tuesday was a warning to the present government to work faster in transforming Poland from a Communist to a democratic system. "I confirm," PAP quoted Walesa as saying Tuesday when asked if he would run for president in the next elections. "We have many wise and valuable people in government, holding various posts. However, one must speed up the pace of reforms and destroy the old arrangements." Despite his statement Wednesday, politicians in Poland charged they believe Walesa will run for president, with the only question being when the voting will take place. President Wojciech Jaruzelski's term is not due to end until 1995, but there is a strong possibility that voting will be moved up as part of a general overhaul of the Polish constitution.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Bonn proposes unity talks for this month

BONN (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government wants the four World War II allies and two German states to hold their first high-level talks on German unification this month, an official said Wednesday. West Germany, pushing for rapid unification, has been waiting for East Germany to form a coalition government following the nation's first-ever free elections March 18. With such a government on the verge of taking over, Bonn wants to start foreign minister-level talks on unification involving the two Germanys and the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France. Preparatory talks occurred last month in Bonn, but not at ministerial levels. A West German government official said Bonn has proposed that foreign ministers of the six nations meet April 26 and 27. He said West Germany wants the meeting to occur in Germany but a specific site had not been chosen. The official, who spoke on condition of not being identified, said a meeting of the European Community (EC) foreign ministers is scheduled for April 21.

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Pakistan puts military on alert

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's military leader put his troops on high alert and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government expressed its "deep regret" Wednesday over what it called India's threat of war. General Mirza Aslam Beg, the army chief of staff, reportedly told a meeting of military commanders that Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh's "threatening statements... call for a high state of preparedness and vigilance to frustrate the designs of the enemy." Singh told the Lok Sabha, or Indian parliament, Tuesday that Pakistan was fomenting separatist violence in India's Jammu-Kashmir state and may "make a limited intervention." Pakistan has denied Indian accusations of aiding secessionists in Jammu-Kashmir.

Saudi Arabia to keep Haj quotas

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has said quotas for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca will remain in force, making an Iranian boycott likely for the third year in a row. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz told the Saudi Press Agency Tuesday that "the percentage fixed for pilgrims from each Islamic country still exists because the circumstances behind the decision are still there." He also urged Muslims to respect Saudi laws that bar turning the pilgrimage into a political rally, said the SPA report received in Cyprus.

Sudan frees 10 political prisoners

KHARTOUM (AP) — The military government has released 10 political detainees, including a former minister, a union leader and a journalist, informed sources said Wednesday. The sources, who declined to be named, said among those released was Ismail Abaker, housing minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi who was ousted by Omar Hassan Al Bashir June 30. Abaker was detained shortly after the coup. Hashim Mohammad Ahmad, leader of the disbanded engineers union, and Faisal Mohammad Salim, a correspondent for the London-based "Al Arab Al Landania" newspaper were also released, the sources added.

Angola agrees to talks in Portugal

LISBON (AP) — The Angolan government has agreed to start peace talks with Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels this month in Portugal, the Angolan state news agency Angop reported Wednesday. In a dispatch released in Lisbon, the agency quoted Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Venciano de Moura as saying: "Probably this month (and) next month, representatives of the Angolan government and elements of UNITA will meet to discuss the internal problem."

Afghan rebels free Soviet soldier

ISLAMABAD (R) — A Soviet soldier held captive by Afghan rebels for nearly four years has been handed over to Soviet diplomats after Afghan government troops set him free. The official Afghan Bakhtar news agency reported Wednesday that Alexey Rotovitch Echnonov was handed to the Soviet embassy in Kabul Tuesday. Echnonov was released Sunday during a government operation against rebels north of Kabul.

Romania asks ex-king to postpone visit

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian government on Wednesday asked ex-king Michael to postpone his first visit to the country since he was deposed and sent into exile 42 years ago. The former monarch was due to arrive Thursday from his home in Switzerland for a week-long visit over Easter. In a statement, the government said it had asked him to postpone the trip until after elections on May 20 because "his coming to the country in this period might exacerbate existing conflicts and endanger his personal security."

National charter may take months to draft — Obeidat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-formed Royal Commission to work out a national charter as proposed by His Majesty King Hussein will embark on its task on Saturday and it will take several months to complete its mission, the commission's chairman, Ahmad Obeidat, announced Wednesday.

Interviewed on Jordan Television, Obeidat, a former prime minister, said he would hold contacts with commission members to agree with them on the common ground for discussions and to sound out their views about the main ideas to be included in the proposed charter.

"I cannot define exactly the period of time needed for the commission's work to be completed, but I expect several months if the commission is to achieve fruitful results," Obeidat said.

Obeidat, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, said the

present stage in Jordan was "influenced by external and internal dimensions." He said the democratic life in Jordan "requires a national dialogue to define national objectives which all sectors agree to achieve and the necessary elements required for this process."

"What is needed from the charter," he added, "is a way to maintain a balance among the various groups in Jordan's society and among the three constitutional powers which form the principal factors in the Kingdom," he said.

The present stage, he added, "requires widening the popular base for true public participation in the decision-making process."

The charter, he said, should clearly reflect Jordan's aspirations and define the true orientation of various groups and lay down criteria that can enhance national identity."

Two killed in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians and a suspected Arab collaborator shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the occupied territories Wednesday, residents and hospital officials said.

Israeli soldiers fired on demonstrators in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis and nearby refugee camp, wounding six when violence erupted after the army lifted a three-day curfew, residents said.

In Dura village near Hebron on the West Bank residents said Idris Yousef Aqeel, 38, fired on Palestinians making a barricade to enforce a boycott on Israeli goods. Hospital officials said Amer Abdul Nabl Amr, 16, died of bullet wounds in the chest.

Residents said Aqeel was suspected of being armed and paid by the Israeli forces.

They said Amr was among a group of masked youths who had been entering shops in the village to enforce a ban of Israeli products ordered by underground leaders as part of the Palestinian uprising.

An army spokesman maintained the youth's death was due to "internal conflicts" in the village. He said the village was put under curfew and police were investigating the slaying.

In Arab Jerusalem police used tear-gas and rubber bullets against demonstrating Arab schoolchildren, Israel Radio said. Palestinian police invaded the playground of Rashidiyyah school and arrested at least six students.

Gazans observed a strike called by the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad organisation to mark the second anniversary of the expulsion of Abdul Aziz Odeh, the group's spiritual leader.

During the 28-month revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories, Palestinian nationalists have killed 196 Arabs, most of suspicion of being informers.

Also Wednesday, the body of a suspected collaborator, Mustafa Khalil Masoud, 30, was brought to a Gaza Strip hospital after he had been seized and stabbed to death in the Jabalya refugee camp, hospital officials said.

Peres gets 15 days reprieve

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres won an extra 15 days to pull together a government after the last-minute defection of two religious lawmakers Wednesday spoiled his immediate hopes of becoming prime minister.

President Chaim Herzog granted the extension to Peres, who has vowed to make peace negotiations with the Palestinians his first priority.

But the president also warned that the political manoeuvring surrounding formation of a coalition has raised "piercing questions about our system of government and our political culture."

Both Labour and the rival right-wing Likud bloc have openly offered political favours to lure defectors from the opposite camp. The backroom deals have sparked a grass-roots campaign for electoral reform to lessen the power of minority parties.

Peres had planned to present his coalition to parliament for approval Wednesday, counting on the support of 61 of the 120 legislators, including five from the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party.

But in a dramatic turnaround just hours before the crucial vote, Agudat lawmaker Avraham Veridger announced that he had resigned from parliament. Party colleague Eliezer Mizrahi then said he would vote against Peres.

Both are political hardliners opposed to the Labour philosophy of accepting territorial com-

promise in exchange for peace. Veridger's resignation renewed the anger in Israel over the disproportionate influence of the small religious parties that serve as kingmakers in any attempt to form a coalition.

When he announced he was quitting, Veridger said he had sought the advice of the Lubavitcher rabbi Menachem Schneerson of Brooklyn, New York, a leading Hasidic figure with great influence in Israel although he has never been to the Jewish state.

"The rabbi said that nothing has changed in his position on Eretz Israel," Veridger said on Israel Radio. Schneerson has written that "land of Israel," including occupied territory, was given by God to the Jews and must not be given up.

Political commentators said Peres' prospects appeared slim, casting doubt on the 66-year-old Labour leader's political future.

Labour might be forced to return to a national unity government with Likud, and former Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, 67, could emerge as compromise candidate for prime minister.

As Peres left the president's residence he told reporters: "I am convinced that if Israel does not open a peace process, we will lose the diplomatic initiative and create the conditions for a hostile initiative."

(Continued on page 5)



Young protesters holding banners gathered at the entrance to Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday evening to greet a delegation of American senators in a "welcome/protest" action (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

'Playing politics with Jerusalem dangerous to peace' King's warning and popular protest greet U.S. senators

By Mariam M. Shahin and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Any decision which does not conform with the reality that Arab Jerusalem is part of Arab territories occupied by force by Israel in 1967 is beyond the framework of international legitimacy and the use of Holy City in any political game is a dangerous tampering with peace.

His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday told a team of visiting American senators.

The senators, who paid an overnight visit to Jordan, were greeted with a "welcome/silent" protest against the U.S. Senate's recent adoption of a resolution recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In his meeting with the Senate team, led by Senator Dole of Kansas, the King said: "Jerusalem was a symbol of peace and it should remain so."

"Jerusalem is an integral part of the Arab territories occupied (by Israel) in the 1967 war," the King was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "Any decision concerning Jerusalem which does not conform with this reality violates international legitimacy."

"Using Jerusalem in the political game is a dangerous tampering with peace," the King warned.

On Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories, the King said that while Jordan firmly believed in human rights and the right of everyone to travel, emigration and the choice of residence, the exercising of such rights "should not be at the expense of the rights of other people."

The King said the Arabs and Jordan were not against the principle of Jewish immigration but opposed "any attempt to settle them in the occupied territories. What would follow this settlement is the transfer of the Palestinian people from their land."

The King called for all powers and countries which respect human rights

to shoulder their responsibilities and adopt action to ensure that the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel would not lead to the expulsion of Palestinians from their land.

The King assailed the "unjust (Western and American) campaign against Iraq," Petra said. He said Iraq did not threaten anyone and did not declare any intention of attacking anyone, but was practising its legitimate right to confirm its ability to defend itself against any attack.

The King was referring to a warning issued by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last week that Iraq would retaliate with binary chemical weapons if attacked by Israel.

"Iraq plays a key role in the stability of the region," the King said. "Therefore it is incumbent upon everyone to support efforts to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598" and bring about a permanent settlement to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

He also outlined the goals of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and its future plans of coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union. He also briefed the senators on the democratisation process in Jordan and steps taken to draft a national charter to guide political life in the Kingdom, Petra reported.

In reply, Senator Dole emphasised the important role played by Jordan and King Hussein for peace and stability and expressed appreciation for the Kingdom's democratic march and its direction towards pluralism, Petra said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also met with the American delegation and outlined Jordan's position on efforts for peace in the region and its support for the rights of the Palestinian people in their national soil, the agency said. The Crown Prince also explained the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and their settlement in the occupied territories.

Following the meetings at the Royal Palace, the senators and their wives proceeded to Amman Marriott Hotel where they were greeted by a

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WEEKENDER (Inside)

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- Ramadan is 'kareem' for food merchants
- Inner reaches of kleptomania's mind
- Bergerac — French season's brightest star
- Arts and fashion, the week's television preview and more...

IMF said seeking cut in food subsidies in 1991

By Salameh Ne'matt

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has met most 1989 targets set by the structural adjustment programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but the fund is seeking additional adjustments related to food subsidies, the tax system, remittances from Jordanian expatriates and the services sector, financial sources said Wednesday.

The sources told the Jordan Times the government and the IMF, who are expected to sign the first draft of a letter of intent this week, have reached agreement on "complementary measures designed to meet 1990 adjustment targets."

They said the IMF had asked for a total elimination of government subsidies of basic foods in 1991 through a gradual reduction of subsidies.

The letter of intent, endorsed by the Cabinet Saturday, calls on the government to establish "a system of cards to be distributed to low-income people so that subsidies benefit only those who need it, until subsidies are lifted altogether in 1991."

Finance Minister Basel Jarad said recently that the real size of subsidies in 1990 was expected to reach JD 72 million rather than the JD 60 million projected in the budget.

The letter of intent also commits the government to enact a value added tax (VAT) system in addition to "reconsidering the customs tariff to improve revenues," according to the sources.

They said negotiations between the IMF and the government last week "showed that the government had met its targets in most sectors and was able to go beyond these targets in some sectors during 1989."

However, the Kingdom did not meet its targets "in some services industries that were expected to boom due to the devaluation of the dinar," according to the sources who did not name the industries concerned. But they added that the failure to reach targets in some sectors was "normal and understandable."

Remittances from Jordanian expatriates, according to the sources, also fell short of projected targets. They said that remittances reached \$600 million in 1989 compared to a projected \$800 million.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said recently he expected remittances to grow from last year's \$600 million to \$850 million this year due to the achieved stability of the Jordanian dinar.

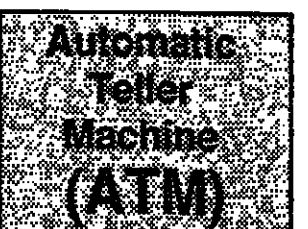
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Belgian hostages could be freed soon, Palestinian group says

BRUSSELS (R) — Remaining members of a Belgian family kidnapped and held hostage by a Palestinian guerrilla group might be freed soon, the group's spokesman said in an interview published Wednesday.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) freed Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente, 31, her Belgian lover Fernand Houtekins, 42, and their two-year-old baby daughter Sophie, born in captivity.

The other four Belgians still held are Houtekins' brother Emmanuel, 44, his sister-in-law Godelieve Kets, 39, and their children Valerie, 18, and Laurent, 19.

All were seized in 1987 from the yacht Silco in the eastern Mediterranean.

"(Negotiations) are proceeding well. I hope we will soon be able to free the family," Walid Khaleel, spokesman for the FRC, told the Belgian daily Le Soir.

The Belgian government has said the negotiations, led by a senior envoy to Lebanon, are at a delicate stage and has declined all comment.

The FRC's main demand has been the freedom of Nasser Said, one of its guerrillas jailed for life for a 1980 attack on a synagogue in the port of Antwerp.

According to Belgian law, Said has the right to plead for a pardon in July, having served 10 years in jail.

Khaled told Le Soir that the release of Said was not the only condition. The FRC also wanted the Belgian government to limit what he called the "activities of Mossad (Israel's secret service) on its territory."

He charged that the FRC had established that the four hostages had worked for Mossad. They had been treated well, but they were legitimate prisoners, he added.

"We are not giving any ultimatum and threatening to execute them if we are not satisfied. We are detaining them, that is all," he said.

The FRC is described by Washington as one of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups, responsible for dozens of raids

that have killed or wounded some 900 people across the world in the past 20 years. Its leader is Sabri Al Banna, also known as Abu Nidal.

Bush welcomes release

In Toronto, visiting U.S. President George Bush Tuesday welcomed the freeing of three European hostages in Lebanon and said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi deserved credit if he helped arrange the release.

"If, indeed, a person deserves credit for facilitating the releasing of people held against their will — anyone in the world — I would certainly say, fine, give the person credit," Bush said at a news conference here.

The president, in Toronto for talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and a baseball game, said he was not familiar with circumstances surrounding the release of the three hostages.

Bush said that if Qadhafi had played the part he was credited with, "I would say that's very positive," but added that the United States and Libya still had major differences.

In Paris, the French government responded to mounting criticism Wednesday by insisting it had not dealt with terrorists in negotiating a release of the hostages.

The freed hostages were flown to France and spent the night at a military hospital outside Paris.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said "state to state" negotiations gained the release of the three, who were believed to have been held in Libya. Dumas said France "did not speak with the abductors."

Those who criticized the government's praise for Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi for helping to free the three were "being picky," he said.

President Francois Mitterrand had personally thanked Qadhafi for his "determining" role in the releases, and Dumas declared that tense French-Libyan relations would now improve.

Qadhafi has backed Abu Nidal, who along with some of his followers has been convicted of terrorist attacks abroad. Qadhafi

reportedly has allowed Abu Nidal to live near the Libyan capital of Tripoli. There have also been reports, however, that the Libyans have restricted the movements of Abu Nidal and his lieutenants.

In an editorial Wednesday, the conservative newspaper Le Figaro branded Qadhafi the "real abductor" of the newly freed hostages.

A month ago, France returned to Libya three French-made Mirage jet fighters that had been in France for repairs since 1986. Libya, pressing for delivery of the aircraft, closed its ports to French ships in December.

In its editorial, Le Figaro said: "One imagines that the thanks addressed by Roland Dumas to Col. Qadhafi were part of a 'deal' which permitted the end of three years of imprisonment."

"We have been working on this case for months," Dumas told reporters late Tuesday after the hostages' arrival. "We alerted a large number of countries, particularly Libya. Our discussions were only state to state, with respect for the principles which are ours."

Previous releases of French hostages by pro-Libyan Lebanese groups prompted charges that France bartered with terrorists, claims France has denied.

U.S. State Department officials welcomed the release but were critical of France's warm words for Qadhafi.

The U.S. officials said France and other countries should press Libya to expel the Abu Nidal group and stop alleged efforts to make chemical weapons.

Valente, 32, and Houtekins, 43, made no public statements upon their arrival, refusing to discuss conditions of their captivity or where they were held. They were taken to a military hospital and all appeared healthy.

The three had been dropped off at the French embassy in Beirut Tuesday morning by masked gunmen in cars with drawn curtains.

A baby boy Valente bore in captivity in March 1989 died recently, French Ambassador Rene Aza said he learned from her. The infant died from a digestive sys-

tem ailment, he said.

Dumas told reporters that French and Belgian authorities remained in contact for the release of the four.

Qadhafi said Tuesday that the Abu Nidal group was "distancing" itself from its terrorist reputation by releasing the hostages, Libyan News Agency (IANA) reported.

British newspapers, insisting that Mirage jets were exchanged for three European hostages freed in Lebanon, Wednesday accused France of "nauseating" hypocrisy in its gratitude to Libya.

The Times said: "Yesterday's identifying spectacle of French ministers grovelling before Col. Qadhafi, whose clients had just released three French captives, drives home once again the extent of international hypocrisy on this question."

Qadhafi was praised by France for his "noble and humanitarian" gesture in securing the hostages' freedom.

"Yet if the Libyan government did not sponsor the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal in the first place, the hostages might not have been taken or held for as long as two and a half years," the Times said.

The Daily Mail took a similar line. "The gratitude of the French Foreign Minister (Roland Dumas) is sufficiently cloying to turn the strongest stomachs. He fawns on the colonel for his 'noble and humanitarian' gesture."

The Independent also found French praise of Libya hard to bear.

"Such rhetoric is nauseating," the newspaper said. "To describe the reversing of a criminal act as high-minded and humanitarian carries realpolitik too far, even by French standards."

The Times also accused France of ignoring Europe's supposedly united front in refusing to deal with groups regarded by the West as terrorists.

"When the British government is accused of lacking in European solidarity... Mrs. Thatcher will be entitled to shout 'Tripoli' at any Frenchman who dares criticize her," it said.

Iranian paper appeals again for hostages release

NICOSIA (AP) — A Tehran newspaper Wednesday said the release of three Western hostages in Lebanon a day earlier should be a prelude to the release of all hostages, as their captivity contradicted Islamic teachings.

The English-language daily Tehran Times, which often reflects the opinions of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said, "in fact the issue of hostage taking should come to an end for all with no discrimination."

The editorial, excerpted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency, said that Iran was working to get all hostages freed.

Referring to the three Europeans released in Beirut Tuesday, the daily said it hoped their freedom was "a prelude to freedom of all hostages regardless of their nationality, religion and belief."

Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente, 32, Belgian Fernand Houtekins, 43, and their 2-year-old daughter Sophie-Liberte were flown Tuesday night to Paris after being released to French diplomats earlier in the day by Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC).

The Libya-backed Palestinian guerrilla group led by Abu Nidal had been holding them for almost two and a half years.

The Tehran Times editorial on the hostages was the third in as many months advocating their release.

"The Islamic Republic has time and again announced its outright opposition to hostage taking as the country finds it contradictory with the Islamic teachings and regards it a serious violation of human relations," the editorial said, according to the IRNA report monitored in Nicosia.

The editorial noted that a large number of Muslims held in Israeli jails should be considered hostages since they were imprisoned without due process.

Freedom for hundreds of Lebanese Shiite Muslims jailed in Israel has been a repeated demand of all the shadowy groups claiming to hold Western hostages in Lebanon.

The editorial said that the Islamic Republic felt "duty-bound" to do all in its power to facilitate the release of hostages, mainly out of human and Islamic considerations.

"Iran therefore is one with and backs up all those who believe in seriously working to get all the hostages, whether Western or from other countries, released as soon as possible," the newspaper said.

William Harwood, the director

Islamic militants boosted in Sudan cabinet reshuffle

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir reshuffled his government Tuesday for the first time since he seized power in June, giving two ministerial posts to Muslim fundamentalist politicians.

Bashir, head of state, prime minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, toppled the elected government of Sadeq Al Mahdi in a coup last June, returning impoverished Sudan to military rule for the fourth time since independence in 1956.

An obscure army brigadier until June, Bashir placed Sudan under a state of emergency, suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament, political parties and trade unions. He also suppressed the press and detained scores of politicians, trade unionists and human-rights activists.

His powerful 15-man ruling junta, widely suspected of subscribing to a militant Islamic ideology and increasingly adopting anti-Western rhetoric, has left civilian cabinet ministers little authority, a fact that Khartoum-based diplomats say has repeatedly caused friction.

Tuesday's reshuffle, which followed weeks of rumors in Khartoum about a possible change in government, involved the ministries of finance, information, housing and education.

The governors of the important central and Kordofan regions were also replaced by two junta members, Colonels Suliman Mohammad Suliman and Faisal Madani Mukhtar, respectively.

Bashir named Hussein Abu Saleh, a leading member of the banned Democratic Unionist Party, as housing minister and gave the education brief to Abdullah Mohammad Ahmad, a member of Mahdi's Umma Party.

Both Abu Saleh and Ahmad served as cabinet ministers during the three years of Mahdi's rule. They are known to be sympathetic to the militant National Islamic Front, which has for years campaigned for the strict implementation of Islamic Sharia Law.

Arab and Western diplomats say Bashir's junta is also looking to have links with the front, advocating a hardline on rebels fighting the government in the mainly animist and Christian south for nearly seven years.

Abu Saleh has since the overthrow of Jaafar Numeiri in 1985 served as minister of health, education and foreign affairs, while Ahmad held the information and trade jobs under Mahdi.

Bashir named Mohammad Khogbi Salehin, a former information minister and until Tuesday's reshuffle the head of the state news agency, to replace

Ali Shomou as information minister.

Shomou, according to the diplomats, has been at loggerheads with the junta over the past two weeks. He has privately spoken against the junta's policies and complained about the excessive influence of militant Muslims within the government, they said.

Bashir also dismissed Finance Minister Sayed Ali Zaki, naming Abdul Rahim Hamdi as his replacement.

Zaki was involved in a publicized row with a junta member in charge of the economy, navy Colonel Salahuddin Karar, over foreign-currency regulations implemented by the military on importers. He argued that the stringent rules were responsible for the acute shortages of consumer goods.

The dismissal of Zaki came nearly six weeks after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave Sudan until July 15 to introduce sweeping economic reforms. Sudan owes the fund an estimated \$1.7 billion in arrears and faces possible expulsion from the organization.

Bashir last month said Sudan, burdened by a \$13 billion foreign debt, a long-running civil war, famine, high inflation and low productivity, would not give in to IMF demands.

France to cut presence in Chad

PARIS (R) — A French army spokesman said Wednesday France was scaling down its military garrison in Chad but denied the move was directly linked to Libya's help in freeing three Western hostages.

France's Sparrowhawk Force, reinforced at the end of March after Chad reported fresh clashes with Libya, will be slashed from 1,300 men to around 800 by June, the spokesman said.

"This is part of a long-term strategy and not directly linked to

the hostages affair," the spokesman said.

"But the fact that Libya is no longer such a threatening force in the area has calmed the situation and has been taken into account."

French hostage Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian lover and their baby daughter were released on Tuesday by their pro-Libyan guerrilla captors. The guerrillas said they were setting them free in response to an appeal by Libyan leader Muam-

mar Qadhafi.

Qadhafi's intervention marks a new phase in improving Franco-Libyan ties, dogged for years by Tripoli's military forays into neighboring Chad, a former French colony.

Libya annexed the Aouzou Strip in the heart of the Sahara in 1973, leading to a border dispute. France sent more than 2,000 soldiers to Chad in 1986 to help contain a Libyan-backed invasion.

U.S. forces retain use of Somali bases

MOGADISHU (R) — The United States still has the use of air and naval facilities in Somalia's north port of Berbera despite sweeping cuts in its economic and military aid to the East African country, U.S. officials said.

The officials said in Washington and Mogadishu this week that an agreement signed in 1980 giving the U.S. Air Force and navy free access to Berbera was still valid.

A Defense Department spokeswoman said that although the 10-year agreement expired in January, it would remain valid until either side gave one year's notice to end it.

William Harwood, the director

of the U.S. Information Service in Mogadishu, said the United States had cut off all economic and military aid to Somalia because of what he called President Mohammad Siad Barre's "appalling human rights record."

"The government's failure to end the civil war in the north and south of the country is another aggravating factor," another U.S. diplomat in Mogadishu said.

Somali officials refused to comment.

The military base in Berbera was built and used by the Soviet Union during the early 1970s when Siad Barre enjoyed close relations with Moscow.

But he expelled the Soviets after Moscow supported Ethiopia against Somalia during the 1977-78 Ogaden War and three years later he offered the base facilities at Berbera, 960 kilometres north of Mogadishu, to the United States.

Washington has paid \$75 million in aid for the use of Berbera, which boasts Africa's longest runway, 4.5 kilometres long and is within range of the Gulf.

But last year the United States withheld all economic and military assistance in protest at human rights abuses and cancelled the annual round of joint military exercises.

Kurdish rebels kill 7 in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (Agencies) — Separatist Kurdish rebels gunned down seven people in an apparent revenge raid on an undefended hamlet southeast Turkey, security sources said Wednesday.

About 60 rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) attacked Ortulu — a settlement of only four houses — Tuesday night and shot dead two brothers and their five children outside their homes, they said.

They burned the victims' houses to the ground before fleeing. The sources said the raid was possibly a reprisal for the earlier killing of three PKK guerrillas near Ortulu, which is near the town of Pervari 80 kilometres north of the Iraqi border.

A second PKK attack on the nearby hamlet of Dugunculer on the same night was thwarted by village guards and the rebels withdrew after killing some farm animals owned by the villagers.

Troops have killed 26 rebels and captured at least 15 since last Saturday. Security sources say this has been the biggest loss suffered in so few days by the PKK since 1984.

A violent campaign for Kurdish independence in southeast Turkey, launched by the PKK six

years ago, has claimed more than 2,000 lives so far.

The government on Monday adopted a series of civic restrictions in the region to facilitate its combat against the insurgency but did not increase military measures.

Meanwhile leftist gunmen overpowered employees in two offices of the governing Motherland Party Wednesday and set off explosives that caused damage but no injuries, police said.

Istanbul's police chief, Hamdi Ardali, told the Associated Press that two leftist gunmen raided the party's office in the district of Umraniye on the Asian side of this city at about 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

Ardali said the gunmen tied up four people and put them in another room before placing hand-made explosives on the main office floor. The small blast shattered windows and caused some other damage, Ardali said.

He said the gunmen painted slogans on the walls such as "Kurdish belongs to Kurds, we will break those hands which are aiming at Kurds" and "Dev-Sol" or revolutionary left, an outlawed leftist group. They then fled.

A second blast occurred almost simultaneously in the party's

Kucukcekmece office on the European side of the city after three gunmen raided the office and overpowered a secretary.

The hand-made explosives caused damage but no casualties, he said.

Police were searching for the gunmen, he added.

Dev-Sol was active in the fighting between leftist and rightist groups which claimed 5,000 lives in late 1970s before the 1980 military takeover.

Many members of the group have been jailed on conviction of terrorist activities.

In a separate development, a Turkish deputy tipped for leadership of the ruling Motherland Party denied Wednesday that he passed state secrets from a diplomat to a journalist.

An Ankara state security court prosecutor said Hassan Celal Guzel was named in the indictment of a case against columnist Uluc Gurkan of the liberal daily Gumus.

The prosecution has demanded Gurkan be jailed for up to 15 years for publishing "information deemed secret in the interest of the state," the journalist told Reuters.

The indictment said Guzel gave the journalist the minutes of last

December's talks between Turkish President Turgut Ozal and U.S. President George Bush in Washington.

"The claims in the indictment are total lies and slander. I will ask parliament to lift my immunity," Guzel told reporters.

The 45-year-old former education minister cannot be tried or even questioned unless the house votes to lift his parliamentary immunity.

Guzel said the claim in the indictment that he obtained the documents from a 27-year-old Turkish woman diplomat with whom he had a romantic liaison was "ridiculous."

Diplomat Hande Mumcu was suspended after being named as the source of the documents, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Gurkan said his article was based on information made public by Ozal and other officials and verified by Washington sources. Guzel was not involved in any way, he added.

Guzel is seen as one of the strongest candidates for the post of Motherland chairman expected to be decided in January.

According to the secret minutes, Ozal and Bush discussed several issues including the Cyprus problem.

Iranian MPs demand blood money from Riyadh

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian parliamentarians Wednesday demanded Riyadh pay blood money for Iranian pilgrims killed in clashes with Saudi police in July 1987, Tehran Radio reported.

A letter signed by more than half of the 270 members of the parliament also said Saudi Arabia must allow 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to the Hajj, or pilgrimage, in late June and early July, the report said.

The Saudis have restricted the number of pilgrims from every country to 1,000 per million of population since 1988, citing multimillion-dollar renovations and expansion facilities in the holy cities.

The Iranians have boycotted the Hajj since then over the Saudi

restrictions, which pushed down the annual Iranian contingent of about 150,000 pilgrims to 55,000.

In the last pilgrimage attended by Iran in July 1987, thousands of Iranians organised political demonstrations and clashed with Saudi police, leaving 402 people dead.

"The Saudi regime must admit to the crime of killing the innocent Iranian pilgrims, apologise for it, pay blood money for them, and release property confiscated from Iranians," the letter demanded.

It said that future pilgrims must also be allowed to stage demonstrations, the radio reported.

In the Saudi capital of Riyadh, Interior Minister Prince Nayef was quoted in the media Wednesday

as affirming that the pilgrimage quota system for the coming pilgrimage remains in force.

"The defined quota of pilgrims for every Islamic state still exists as the circumstances that brought about the decision still exist," he was quoted as telling a graduating batch of police officers the previous night.

He also urged the Saudis and foreigner Muslims residing in the kingdom to give others a chance, as the kingdom tries to limit the flow of domestic pilgrims.

He affirmed the necessity of full adherence to the Hajj rituals and said "I don't think anyone who has an iota of faith in his heart would try to think of harming his brother Muslim."

Iranians, who are predomi-

nantly Shiite Muslim, contend that demonstrations against the United States, Israel and other countries considered enemies of Islam, are recognised rituals of the Hajj.

But the Sunni Muslim countries, which constitute a majority, demur.

The issue of the Hajj is the most contentious between Saudi Arabia and Iran, both influential in the Islamic World.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Tehran in April 1988, saying Iran was trying to destabilise the region. The examples cited included the Mecca clashes as well as Iranian threats to Saudi shipping lanes during the Iran-Iraq war.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 La Chanson des chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Bill Cosby Show
21:00 NBA Basketball
21:10 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Tell Them Willie Boy is Here"

PRAYER TIMES

05:45 Fajr
06:45 (Sunrise) Duha
11:36 Dhuhr
15:12 'Asr
19:07 Maghreb
19:27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifditch Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Assumption International Church Tel. 627981, 663336

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be affected by a cold front. Thus a drop in temperature and rain in humidity will occur and there will be a chance for local showers of rain. Winds will be south-westerly moderate to fresh. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and dusty with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman 10 / 20

Aqaba 16 / 28

Deserts 11 / 24

Jordan Valley 14 / 26

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 29, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Queen visits Suweimeh

SOUTH SHUNEH (J.T.)—The little town of Suweimeh in the central Jordan Valley region near the Dead Sea Wednesday visited by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein who inspected a local socio-economic development programme designed to raise the standard of living among the local citizens.

Located some 24 kilometres south of South Shuneh, not far from the Jordan River, the town is inhabited by 224 poor families, many of whom live from cultivating the land.

The Queen, accompanied by Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh and Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Director Inam Al Mufti, inspected The Quality of Life Development Project and was briefed by local officials about the village's needs which included housing, a kindergarten, and public services.

Queen Noor toured several areas, including a cooperative centre which distributes animal feed to the local villagers. She visited a number of homes and took part in planting a number of

fruit trees in the fields around homes in the village.

Later, the Queen inspected livestock enclosures set up in the course of The Quality of Life Development Project, which was carried out by NHF in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Quality of Life Development Project was formulated upon the directives of the Queen, following a visit she made to Suweimeh in January 1988.

The project aims at improving the quality of life and raising the standard of living among people living in the underdeveloped areas.

Suweimeh is one of three villages in Jordan to be covered by the project and the first part of the scheme was now carried out in Suweimeh; according to NHF, a total of 12 villages will be included in the plan.

NHF said that a Village Development Fund will be established with support and contributions from the local population to finance community-based de-



Her Majesty the Queen Wednesday visits Suweimeh village (Petra photo)

velopment schemes.

A NHF survey showed that the people of Suweimeh were very

poor, 65 per cent of the female population were illiterate, half the women received no pre-natal

or post-natal care and all homes lacked proper water and sanitation facilities.

Unionists plan march

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Arab Trade Unionists are in the process of organising a march to the Jordan River demanding the "right of return for Palestinians to their homeland," president of the Jordanian Professional Association said Wednesday.

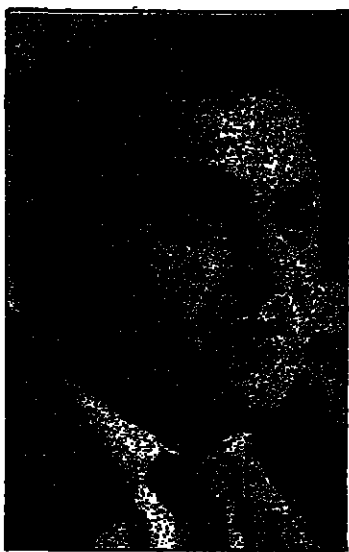
Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, president of the Jordan Medical Association and of the Council of Jordanian Professional Associations said a five-kilometre march would take more than 200 heads of Arab professional unions and up to 5,000 other marchers from a "village in the Jordan Valley to the King Hussein Bridge" May 14.

May 15 commemorates the date on which Israel declared itself a state on parts of Palestine.

"Over 5,000 members of Arab professional associations and unions are expected to take part in a two-day trade union conference in Amman, May 12 and 13." Following the conference the march will take place," Abbadi said at a press conference Wednesday.

He said that the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, ways to support the 28-month-old Palestinian intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and human rights would be the main items on the agenda of the conference.

Abbadi said that in his



Mamdouh Abbadi

capacity as head of the Council of Jordanian Professional Associations he had invited colleagues from all Arab countries to participate in the three-day activities.

Abbadi said that Prime Minister Mudar Badran had personally authorised the May 14 march and had initially suggested that the union march join an international peace march being arranged by the Amman chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which was also scheduled for May 14.

"We will not be joining the ADC in their march because the aim of the two marches differ," Abbadi told reporters.

"While the ADC's five-day march would concentrate on 'peace and two-state solution slogans', the union march would stress 'the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland'," Abbadi said.

The five-day ADC march is now scheduled to take place from June 1 to 5 commemorating the 1967 Arab-Israeli war in which Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Organisers at the ADC said that the change in date had nothing to do with any difference of opinion with the unions.

Funds raised

Abbadi, who is president of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada, said that the committee had raised twice as much in the first quarter of 1990 as in the previous two years. He said the committee had raised up to JD 600,000 by the end of March 1990. He added that in the first quarters of 1988 and 1989 only one half of that had been collected.

The figure does not include the amount of money raised during the week-long national fund-raising campaign, which lasted from March 22 through 29.

Abbadi said that he expected the amount raised during the fund-raising week to exceed JD 200,000. "During the first two years of the intifada the committee had raised JD 3 million," Abbadi said.

Jordan invites Arab pharmacists to meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pharmacists unions in all Arab countries have been invited to take part in a general conference by Jordanian pharmacists which will be held in Amman on the 2nd of May, according to the conference chairman Abdul Munem Al Khoul.

Khoul said in a statement to the Jordan Times that the question of Arab medicine and imports of foreign-made drugs will be reviewed in 38 working papers along with such topics as the rise in the price of medicine, the Arab pharmaceutical industries and the local needs of medicines.

He said that the conference, the fifth of its kind, will be organised by the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"A proposal of boosting Arab pharmaceutical industries to cover the needs of all Arab markets over a period of four years will be among the important issues to be taken up at the three-day meetings," Khoul said.

"Invitations have gone out to all unions in the Arab World to take part in this important conference expected to come up with important resolutions," Khoul added.

Khoul pointed out that the soaring prices of imported medicines, due to the devaluation of the Jordanian currency, will be on the minds of most Jordanian participants.

JPA and the Ministry of Health have been at loggerheads over pricing of imported drugs.

JPA says that the problem with pricing began with the devaluation of the dinar in August 1988 and the government decision to raise the price of imported medicine by 35 per cent did not solve the problem.

Statistics available to the Jordan Times indicate that Jordan imported drugs worth JD 18 million in 1988 while production of local pharmaceutical manufacturing companies was worth JD 4.5 million. Both the ministry and the JPA agree that local pharmaceutical industries can increase production to lessen dependence on foreign supplies.

Ministry to boost domestic tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a bid to encourage domestic tourism, the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with local transport companies will start a programme of visits for Jordanians to see touristic and archaeological sites in the country in the coming month, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Karbari announced Wednesday.

The fees include transportation in air-conditioned buses to and from the tourist sites, meals and other services like visits to museums, the minister said in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The minister said the initial trips will be to the Nabatean city of Petra, the port city of Aqaba and the Ma'in spa complex some 40 kilometres south of Amman.

At present the government is encouraging the establishment of hotels of three-star and lesser categories to meet the needs of the low income groups.

"The government will provide all possible assistance and support for such touristic projects especially at Aqaba, the Dead Sea and Petra, Karbari said.

The minister agreed that at certain tourist centres, meals and services are offered at high rates which the local citizens cannot afford and admitted that the present four-star hotel rates for Jordanians (at JD 28 a room per night) was rather high.

Asked on the tourist camps which, the ministry had earlier announced, would be established in Aqaba and other areas, the

minister said that the ministry has no budget for such projects but the door is open for the private sector to take the initiative and carry out such projects with support and facilities from the Ministry of Tourism.

Earlier this month, the minister disclosed that the next month would witness the arrival here of thousands of Iraqi tourists. Between 70,000 and 100,000 Iraqis will be arriving between May and the peak of the summer holiday season in August now that the Iraqi government has allowed Iraqi citizens to take trips abroad.

According to Karbari, the Ministry of Tourism has made arrangements for accommodating the Iraqi visitors who will visit Ma'in, Petra and other areas.

Jordan will have new touristic site

TAFLEH (J.T.) — The southern town of Dana will be transformed into a tourist site, to be provided with all essential facilities according to plans prepared by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Discussing the plan with the local people at a meeting Wednesday, President Anis Mousher said the project can go ahead provided the local citizens gave their approval.

A special committee, to be chaired by Tafleah governor Khalaf Maharmeh, will be set up soon to discuss the plans and to elaborate them for the benefit of the local inhabitants.

Mousher, who was accompanied at the meeting by Vice-President Laila Sharaf and Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat, said that integrated plans have been prepared to promote the region's economic and touristic life.

Dana region will be covered by the RSCN's programmes which include setting up traditional touristic projects, handicrafts manufacturing, like carpet weaving, and the exploitation of rare plant species in addition to beekeeping projects whose products will be marketed with the help of RSCN.

The Dana area, within the Tafleah governorate, is a rugged terrain where the RSCN has established a wildlife reserve stretching from the outskirts of Tafleah to Wadi Araba and has introduced the ibex among other rare species of animals and plants threatened with extinction.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided a grant of \$100,000 to assist the RSCN in setting up the Dana Wildlife Reserve to house these species.

Work on the Dana Wildlife Reserve began in August 1989 and at least 20 baby ibex from the

United States were brought to live in the Dana reserve.

Through the efforts of the RSCN the following wildlife reserves have been established in the Kingdom: Shomari, Azraq, Mujib, Zobia, Dana and Rum, where measures have been taken to protect various types of animals, plants and birds.

The minister of agriculture addressed the meeting promising to open several agricultural roads within the Tafleah governorate in the course of dealing with the problem of unemployment and the effects of the drought that hit southern Jordan.

Arabiyat said that JD 33,000 have been allocated for developing high-land regions and agriculture services offices would be opened in all areas.

The governor presented the local residents demands, gave details about the general economic conditions in the governorate and said the local farmers require veterinary services in addition to agricultural services.

Tafleah was among the three southern regions visited by Prime Minister Mudar Badran last month when he promised huge sums as aid to relieve the drought stricken areas.



Ibex in Dana wildlife reserve (file photo)

Unions condemn America's policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The professional unions in Jordan Wednesday issued a statement condemning America's policies in the Middle East and declaring that the United States together with the world Zionism constitute the real enemy of the Arab Nation.

The statement was issued on the day of the arrival here of a U.S. Senate delegation led by Republican leader Robert Dole, a visit widely criticised by public officials and representatives of various organisations and the press.

"The professional unions condemn a decision by the U.S. Congress which supported Israel's decision to

annex Jerusalem, making it the united capital of Israel," the statement said.

"The United States is totally biased towards Israel and together they form an alliance, the real enemy of the Arab Nation," the statement added.

It called on the Arab Nation to confront this alliance by all available means. The statement also called on the Arab World to boycott American goods and products.

The U.S. senators who are on a tour of the Arab region will be presented with written protests by representatives of several organisations based in Amman and the occupied Arab territories.

USAID grants aid to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — In cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has granted \$250,000 to the International Executive Service Corps (IESC) to implement activities as requested by Jordan's private sector during the coming year.

IESC volunteers have completed 101 projects for 85 Jordanian clients to date under the grant which runs from 1983-1991 at a cost of \$2.6 million. Clients have included private voluntary organisations, pharmaceutical companies, electrical manufacturers, banking institutions, and other businesses.

In response to a request from a Jordanian firm, IESC recruits a highly experienced retired American executive or technical advisor to provide consultation and hands-on help with a specific problem.

The volunteer advisor is selected for each assignment on the basis of long career experience in the same field of business as the organisation requesting the assistance. While the volunteer's travel and living costs are covered by the USAID grant, the volunteer donates his or her time and work. Volunteers work only in the interests of their Jordanian clients, and have no obligation to any American company.

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WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Khalil Al Kafahi at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Ajloun girls college.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian-Palestinian heritage displaying national costumes, oil paintings and photos depicting the suffering of Palestinians under Israeli occupation at Al Quds Community College.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in French, entitled "De Gaulle et la Décolonisation" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 567371/6, 670141-4, 584311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faxsimile: 681342

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Gaining strength from democracy

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's keynote address Tuesday to the Royal Commission entrusted with drafting the proposed national charter underlined the need to look towards a brighter future and plan for it effectively and carefully but with an eye to learning lessons from the past. Democratisation is irreversible, the King said, but the road to democracy, our ultimate goal, will be difficult and it becomes evident in the King's address that the idea is to reach a state whereby healthy democracy becomes an irreversible reality. As Jordan is placing its mark on the history of the Middle East by embarking on a road that was bloody for many a nation, an important lesson to learn is to recognise that democracy does not allow for the freedom of speech alone but the freedom to analyse and make conclusions which would contribute to the development of our country. While the Royal Commission is studying ways to draft the guidelines of the future, it is imperative that it also looks back at the past, positive and negative, and analyse our pitfalls, shortcomings and strengths. For only by placing the bricks of history in their rightful place can we ever hope to provide our children with solid national structures that can withstand the test of time and the storms of change. Pluralism of political ideology is not just a phrase that depicts elements of democracy. It is also a responsibility of respect for those whose opinions may collide with others. What always has to be taken into account is that the higher interests of the country has at all times to supersede the need to apply a certain ideology or belong a political party. With respect for others and for the lessons history we will create situations where we in turn will receive respect and gain strength for one democratic process.



SAID MAHMOUD

AL RA'I and other Arabic daily papers on Wednesday discussed the national charter which is being contemplated to serve as an umbrella for all political groupings and to act as an executive branch for the national constitution. Al Ra'i said that the charter places the Jordanian people at the starting point, and at the threshold of a prosperous future, democratically, socially and economically. King Hussein, said the paper, wants the charter to serve as a second phase of the democracy in Jordan and one that complements the work of the ancestors and forefathers who offered sacrifices and exerted efforts to achieve what is best for this country. The paper said that the charter offers Jordanians the chance to present their views and submit ideas designed to help the country carry on the process of development. By meeting the members of the Royal Commission entrusted with the task of preparing the national charter, the King has met with the representatives of the people and elements picked out from various political affiliations whose presence will ensure the success of this new experiment, the paper noted. The paper voiced its best wishes for the commission to achieve its objectives and serve the nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily questions a visit to Jordan Wednesday by a delegation representing the United States Senate, and says though Jordanians are not in the habit of turning away visitors, yet they all feel embittered and indignant at Washington's behaviour. Mohammed Najib Amayreh recalls that the United States Senate has just passed a decision, granting Israel \$400 million to help it finance the settlement of Jewish immigrants on occupied Palestinian land; maintain constant supply of arms and financial assistance to the Jewish state, enabling it to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territories and launches a hostile attack on Iraq for acquiring advanced weapons to defend itself against Israel's acts of aggression. The writer notes that President Bush has described Iraq's announcement that it will repel Israel's attacks with all weapons available to it as a shameful declaration, but failed to criticise Israel's continued killing of men, women and children in the occupied Arab territories. We cannot conceal our deep anger over such actions, and such behaviour, and we can not but display our deep dissatisfaction with the United States attitude towards the Arab Nation, says Amayreh. What is more, the writer adds, we cannot conceal our total condemnation of the U.S. Senate's decision, supporting Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem, regarding it as the united capital of the Jewish state.

Al Dussour daily commented on the national charter as proclaimed to the public by His Majesty King Hussein in a nationwide speech before members of a Royal Commission to shoulder the task. The charter, the paper said, means that the country is embarking on a second stage of its march towards full democracy which started with the election of a Lower House of Parliament. In his address, King Hussein has outlined the significant mission entrusted to the commission members and reviewed the long history of achievements and stages of development in the Kingdom from which, he said, one can take lessons and one can find beacons to light the way ahead, the paper noted. It said that the King has stressed that Jordan has irrevocably been committed to democratic life and to pluralism which can best serve national interests. Through democracy and pluralism the paper added, the country is certain to forge ahead with a greater sense of confidence towards further development.

Why Arabs must oppose immigration of Soviet Jews

By Jonathan Kuttab

PALESTINIAN and Arab resistance to the influx of the Soviet Jewish immigrants has at least three separate and distinct reasons: emotional, ideological, and practical.

The first reaction is an angry emotional rejection of all the efforts to bring Soviet Jews to Palestine at a time when the majority of the Palestinian population is forcibly kept in exile as refugees, stateless people, or otherwise wandering throughout the world. In addition, many others face deportation for asserting their national claims. Tens of thousands of Palestinian families are split, with the children, the mother, or the father across the border, only able to come here, if at all, on a temporary visitor's permit. The human misery of these individuals evokes an angry emotional response when others have little or no connection to this land are brought halfway across the world, while its own inhabitants are prevented from returning.

Until the Palestinians' right of return is recognised and exer-

cised, and until at least the humanitarian needs for family reunification are seriously met, there can be no chance that Palestinian resistance to Soviet immigration will end. The cry for justice and equality, and the rejection of discrimination against the local people will not allow it, especially since these new immigrants are only gaining the material advantages of the West, rather than fleeing any clear and present danger of pogrom or oppression.

Countering the Zionist argument

The second objection to this wave of immigration comes from an ideological basis which has always found fault with the Zionist movement. At its roots, Zionism is a response to anti-Semitism which is both dangerous and defeatist. It states that Jews cannot and will not be safe anywhere in the world except in the state of Israel. As such, Zionists await, and may even welcome, disaster to befall Jews so that they will be driven, if they are not already convinced, to leave the Gentile world and come and live in Israel.

The famine in Ethiopia was seized upon as a great opportunity by the state of Israel to bring Ethiopian Jews here. The liberalisation of policies in the Soviet Union, together with the closure of doors to the West for the Jews, was welcomed and encouraged by Israeli officials. In fact, one gets the impression that they are almost eager for pogroms and anti-Semitism to occur in order to urge Jews to come here. When ethnic strife between two totally different nationalities broke out in Azerbaijan, Zionists found a further opportunity.

At the ideological level then, Zionism has an ironic, though very logical connection to anti-Semitism. The proper response to anti-Semitism is not the Zionist one, but to fight against anti-Semitism, fight for equality for Jews in their own countries and work against discrimination, rather than to despair and claim that anti-Semitism will always exist, that it is only a matter of time before Jews are massacred in every country in which they live and that the only escape is for them to flee to Palestine before it is too late.

An obstacle to peace

Last, but not least, are the practical considerations for the peace process arising out of the new mass immigration. To the extent that any of the immigrants are settled in East Jerusalem or in the occupied territories, they will constitute additional obstacles to the proposed historical compromise between the Palestinian people and state of Israel, which is roughly the two-state solution. While many details remain to be worked out, it is generally thought that the outlines of such a compromise are for a Palestinian state to be created in the lands occupied in 1967, to live in peace with the state of Israel in which the Zionist dream will be restricted. Housing and settling Jews in the territories that were occupied in 1967 makes that type of compromise that much more difficult and unrealistic.

The protestation of the Israeli government that it does not direct new immigrants to the occupied territories is not credible, since in the present economic situation neither housing nor jobs can be

provided for new immigrants except with heavy government subsidies. These subsidies are available in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to a far greater degree than in Israel itself. In addition, city and town planning for major housing projects is solely at the discretion of Israeli government and no major project can be implemented unless it falls within its vision.

As a subsidiary issue, it is no secret that most individuals in the Israeli "peace camp" are merely "demographic doves" and the urgency of their interest in peace stems primarily from their fear of the Arab demographic ascendancy. To the extent that an additional half a million or a million Jews are introduced into the picture, these individuals and their argument are necessarily weakened and the impetus towards seeking peace with the Palestinians is therefore reduced.

Therefore, from the point of view of seeking peace and a compromise between Palestinians and Israelis, a new wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the area, even within Israel's pre-1967 bor-

ders, will be a step backwards for the peace process.

These objections have nothing to do with the right and freedom of Jews and others to leave the Soviet Union. The right of any person leave his country and return to it is granted by Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Palestinians, more than any other people, value this right, since it is being systematically denied to them. The only issue is that of discrimination, where the right to return to Palestine is granted to Jews and systematically denied to Palestinian Arabs. Once, however, the Palestinian right to return is recognised and implemented, even in a qualified form, Palestinian and Arab resistance to Soviet immigration will disappear. But not before then.

Jonathan Kuttab is a Palestinian lawyer and co-founder of Al Haq human rights organisation. He is a member of the New York, Israel and West Bank Bar Associations. His article is reprinted from Middle East International, London.

LETTERS

Miraculous job

To the Editor,

ON March 28, 1990 an article appeared in the Jordan Times entitled "Peace of mind missing from 'Home of Peace'." What should have praised the almost superhuman efforts of the four sisters who run the Home seemed instead to belittle the sacrifices they are willing to undertake for the love of mankind.

The Home of Peace in Tla'a Al Ali is run with limited resources, manpower and space by the four sisters of Mother Teresa. It is a bright example of what some are willing to do for their fellow men, and women in the face of great adversity. The government should take notice of what these sisters are doing on such a limited budget when they state that there is not enough money in the treasury to finance an expanded social welfare system.

Instead of the "relatively clean," "drab and scary," "ugly atmosphere" as described by Nur Sati I encountered, on a recent unannounced visit, floors still wet from recent washing, air permeated with pine scent and patients undergoing the daily exercise of bathing.

I use the word "daily" because when you have 81 patients many of whom require, due to handicaps, more than one person in attendance during bathing and there are only four sisters, it is a daily affair to bathe everyone.

The duties the sisters have in coping with such a burden require that they rise at 5:00 every morning and during Ramadan even earlier as they have to prepare meals for their fasting Muslim patients.

This is not to say that the situation at the Home is pleasant, it is far from it. As Nur Sati stated the sane and insane are lodged together in the same rooms. Not a healthy situation and one that needs urgent attention now that 100 handicapped children are on the waiting list for admittance. A home for the aged and mentally ill is not an environment suitable for young minds, retarded or otherwise.

The situation at the Home of Peace underlines the need in this country for sufficient and effective services to be made available to the elderly, homeless and mentally and physically handicapped. A need which is greater than many would like to believe.

Until that time when the services are made available we should have nothing but praise for people such as the Sisters of Teresa who sacrifice so much in return for nothing but the satisfaction that they have done their duty for suffering human beings.

Nur Sati ends her article by stating that "according to several volunteers the Home of Peace is doing a miraculous job." "Why?" I would like to ask her, does she say "according to"? She was there wasn't she? She couldn't see it for herself? I could.

O.H. Kirby
Amman

Fair evaluation

To the Editor,

I WOULD like to clarify a few points concerning the article: Peace of mind missing from Home of Peace, (Jordan Times, March 28, 1990), a terribly negative article that has incited many people to approach me pleading for a fair-re-evaluation of the situation there.

To start with, may I mention that no one at the Home of Peace recognises the people or place in the picture that accompanied the article. Democracy and freedom of speech demand a great sense of responsibility, namely knowing all the facts before passing judgement.

The writer sounds like this was her first visit to an old people's home and her shock at the senility (not madness) of some people is understood. One thing no one seems to understand though is how she did not perceive the fact that only eight nuns achieve the monumental task of caring for approximately eighty five old people. These ceaseless efforts are sustained by prayer and a deep sense of generosity. The Indian sisters of Mother Teresa are little saints willing to wash and clean and feed needy people without the help of electric machines. But Mother Teresa installed a system whereby ladies of society, called co-workers, help out in the care of the old people.

In Jordan, ladies of the high society, who refused to be named, are acting as co-workers, cooking, feeding and bathing the old people in the process. They bring hope and love to the old people and the number is ever increasing. These co-workers coordinate with others around the world on a regional and national basis. Their only aim is to provide shelter and food to the destitute.

Various doctors have, in the past, volunteered visits to the home, although they would rather do that anonymously. They are called upon in emergency and always arrive promptly.

We cannot deny that the Home of Peace is not at all well-equipped and that it has meagre reserves of food. This burden should sit on the conscience of the public, provided they are aware of the need. The sisters depend totally on prayer for that, so an article handling the situation could stress the angle of need, rather than stress the nightmarish imagery. Yes, old people tend to stink, which is why they need cleaning agents!

Many old people prefer to die in the Home among the nuns they have grown to love. Complaining, on the other hand, is one of the features of old age, when a person loses all his strength, his loved ones and his reason.

Above all, do not call them inmates. This is nowhere near a prison. Rather it is a haven that is in dire need of help, so we call on all the enlightened people of this country to contribute in any way possible to make life in this home more bearable for the solitary men and women who will spend the brief hours left to them in there.

Nelly Latta
Amman.

Israel destroys Palestinian houses to quell intifada

By Sami Aboudi
Reuters

SURIF, West Bank — Israel has been destroying Palestinian houses as a means of repressing the uprising in the occupied territories. Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups say.

The groups' figures indicate at least 700 unlicensed houses have been bulldozed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the uprising began in December 1987, nearly double the number pulled down during the previous two years.

At least 260 more houses belonging to families of Palestinians suspected of anti-occupation activities are said to have been destroyed.

Israeli security sources concede that the demolition of houses built illegally, sometimes after years of waiting for permission, has increased since the uprising against Israeli rule began in December 1987, but officials deny that the measures are punitive.

"They want to take revenge. Perhaps they think they can pressure people to end the intifada (uprising)," said Jihad Al Heeh, an Arab blacksmith from the West Bank village of Surif, whose two-storey house was flattened last August.

Israeli security sources admit at least 700 homes built without licences have been bulldozed. But they say the pace of demolition has eased in recent weeks in response to pressure from the United States.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem, in a report last Decem-

ber, quoted former Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin telling parliament that 505 homes built without permits were destroyed in the first year of the uprising compared with an average of 196 houses in each of the two preceding years.

"These figures... raised the assumption that the security forces use the pretext of illegal construction to demolish homes as an additional method of punishment and as a means of exerting pressure," B'tselem wrote.

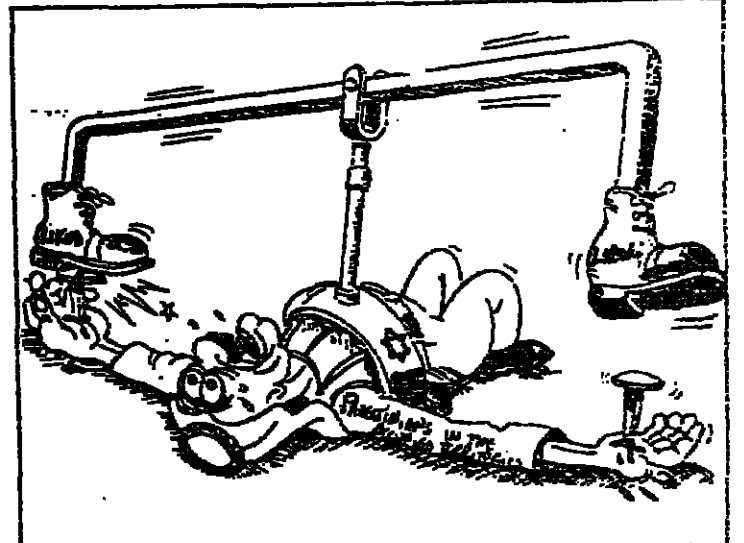
The Israeli action has hit almost every village in the occupied territories, according to the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq.

"More than 70 per cent of West Bank and Gaza Strip villages have been affected by house demolitions," said Khaled Batrawi, senior researcher for the West Bank-based group.

Israeli military security regulations in the occupied territories give commanders control over all construction. They can set the terms and ban or halt building. With a rising Palestinian population and few permits granted for new construction, it is not hard for the army to find illicit buildings.

Blacksmith Heeh, who built his house in 1988 after five futile years applying for a licence, told Reuters three other village houses were turned into rubble on the same day as his.

Residents in the village of around 10,000 people say only 10 per cent of the houses have been built legally.



The army has destroyed 16 houses in Surif since the end of 1987 and villagers say at least 18 more are slated to face the bulldozer.

Al-Haq data shows at least 16 houses have been destroyed in Itku' near Bethlehem, a village of only 1,000 inhabitants.

B'tselem says more than 260 homes of Palestinian activists have been razed during the uprising.

The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre says in addition more than 785 houses not identified with activities were destroyed in the first two years of the 28-month-long revolt.

Israeli officials deny demolitions are designed to subdue the Palestinian revolt.

"All this talk is nonsense," said an official of the defence minis-

try, which administers the area. He said house demolitions were necessary to "serve zoning."

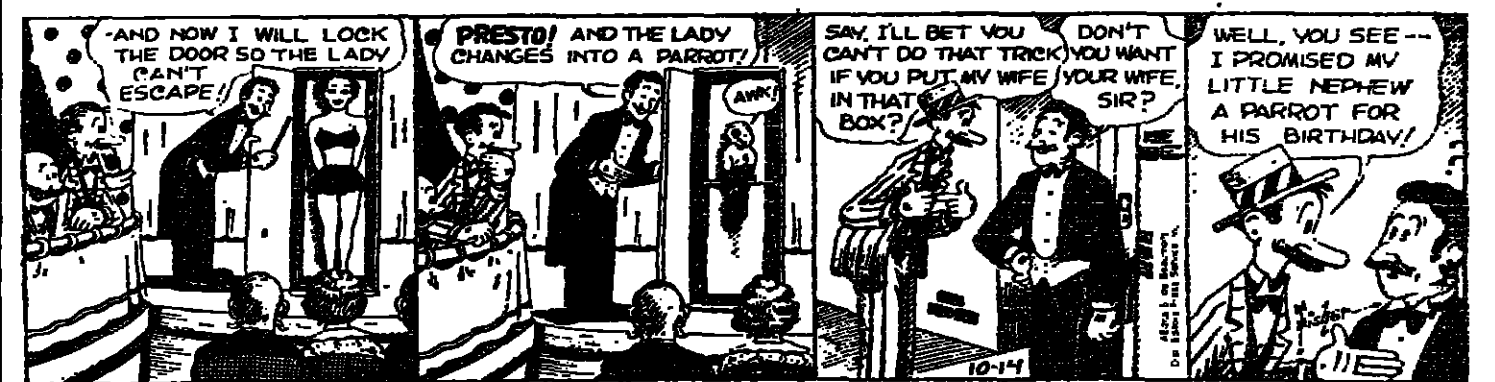
Al Haq, which has investigated more than 200 house demolitions, said many take place after army patrols spot new buildings during sweeps for Palestinian activists.

Military authorities privately acknowledge demolitions are among an armoury of punitive measures such as tax raids and deportation.

They said the civil administration takes the measures to demonstrate Israeli rule over the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Security sources say military administrators in some areas have privately criticised demolition on the grounds that it recruits more people for the uprising than it deters.

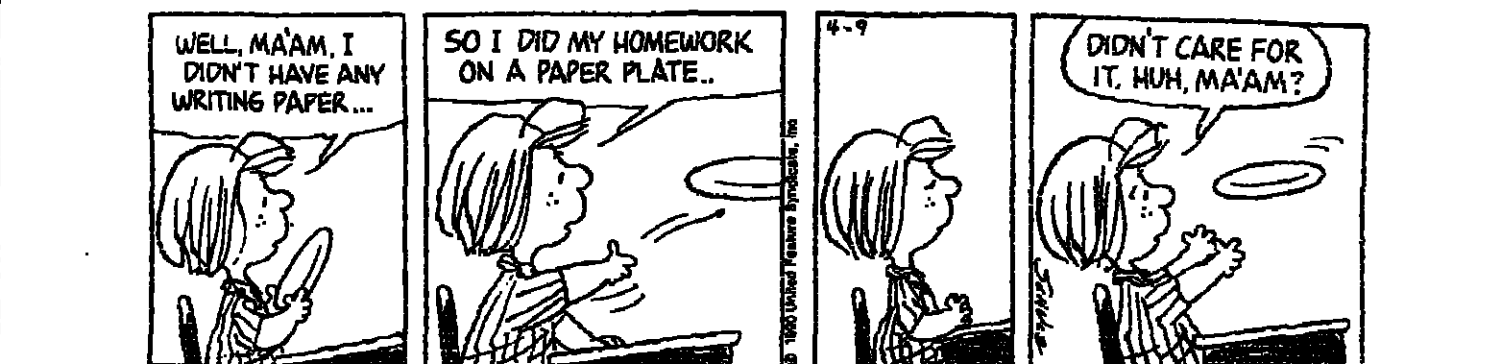
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



150 من الدال

Al Thagher Society — the only hope for the handicapped children of the south

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The idea behind the Ministry of Labour's decision not to grant work permits for foreign workers (except domestic and farm labour) in Jordan was to give employment opportunities for Jordanians and to stop the flow of hard currency out of the country. In theory, the ministry's policy should work. In practice, however, guest workers do not always sap the country's foreign currency reserves. Some of them, in fact, give this country much more than what they take.

A case in point is Hester Krot. Hester has been working as an airline hostess for Royal Jordanian for a couple of years. A Dutch native, she was able to bring in the equivalent of \$30,000 into the country, all in the service of a good cause. This sum was granted to Al Thagher Society for the Care of the Handicapped in Aqaba, which serves 40 children in the southern region of the kingdom — our subject of discussion.

When Hester came across one of Al Thagher's board of directors and was told about the bad situation of the facilities for the children in Aqaba, she invited her mother from Holland to visit the centre.

It just so happened that her mother, Agnes Poot, had dedicated her life to charity work with the mentally handicapped in Holland. Though now retired, Mrs. Poot continues to work with unfortunate "children" on voluntary basis, and she was able to help the unfortunate kids in

Aqaba.

"These children hardly had anything except second-hand equipment when I visited the first time last October," Mrs. Poot told the Jordan Times, adding that she had promised the administration of the society to help.

When she returned to Amsterdam, Mrs. Poot contacted the Dutch Foundation of Children's Stamps, a charity organisation that collects \$7 million annually by selling stamps and postcards one-third higher than the actual price. Each October, and for two weeks, sixth grade children go around selling regular stamps and postcards, and the foundation keeps the one-third difference made. The organisation then keeps 50 per cent of the money for the Dutch children, and the rest goes to the needy children in other parts of the world.

Mrs. Poot provided the foundation with the necessary material that Al Thagher society needed, and requested a sum of money that would cover these needs. "It's a very official process," Mrs. Poot commented on the procedure of approval of grants from the Dutch foundation.

Not only did the foundation agree to provide the \$25,000 for Al Thagher Society, but Mrs. Poot established a committee of the Friends of Al Thagher Society in Holland, which includes six specialised members.

The agreement is that Holland would provide certain equipment, such as the educational material and technic-



Agnes Poot presents the president of Al Thagher Centre in Aqaba, Ahmad Sabab, a letter of agreement from the Dutch charity foundation to donate a sum of \$25,000.

al assistance, while other equipment, such as air-conditioning and a television set would be bought in Jordan.

"Via Mrs. Poot, we learnt of the important work that your association is doing for the handicapped children in the city of Aqaba. We appreciate these efforts. In every society, handicapped people belong to the weakest sections. Your work certainly gives these children a much better future and therefore, a much better position in Jordanian society," says the letter from the Dutch foundation to the Aqaba society, accepting to provide the funds.

But why would Mrs. Poot be so interested in helping the mentally handicapped

children in the south of Jordan?

"In Holland we have a lot of experience in this field. Now that I'm retired I have more time to help those who need it, especially in Aqaba after seeing how hard they (staff at Al Thagher) are working to provide the necessary care for the children. If we can provide financial help and professional expertise, then why not?" Mrs. Poot says.

"Every child has rights to education, development, shelter and care. And special care is needed for handicapped children," she added.

With a reported 350 mentally handicapped children in the south, Al Thagher Society was registered in 1981, but

did not open its centre until 1986, with the help of the General Union for Voluntary Societies (GUVS). But to enable the centre to care for, rehabilitate and provide special education for the 40 children in a proper manner, the society is currently working on a new building that would provide better services, especially that now the Dutch foundation has made life easier for the society to get ahead. The new building is scheduled to finish in September this year in time for the new school year.

We all know how disadvantaged the mentally handicapped children are in our country. It is known how unacceptable they are in our soci-

ety, and how there are many unreported cases that go unnoticed because of the backward mentality of the families that keep them hidden and locked up in their houses, not to be seen or heard by anyone.

If both the families and the children are given hope, these children will be able to receive the necessary care, and perhaps develop and progress to melt into the pot of society. For, although these children may be mentally handicapped, they are special, kind-hearted human beings who need special care and education. And let us not forget that in many cases it is the "normal" families who are in need of help to understand their mentally handicapped children and learn how to work with them.

As Mrs. Poot says: "It is very important to give attention to the families of these children on location, in their homes, and train them to work in the proper manner with their disadvantaged children... This is something Al Thagher Society plans to work on."

The southern region of the Kingdom is already disadvantaged, let alone the situation of the 350 (reported cases) of mentally handicapped children. And Al Thagher is the only centre available in that area to care for these children. If the Jordan Times readers would like to offer any help so that more than 40 children could benefit from the professional services of Al Thagher Society, please contact telephone number (03 316499, or write to P.O. box 1637, Aqaba.

Give culture its share of democracy

By Sana Attiyeh

DEMOCRACY has finally taken its course in the Kingdom, a process that started when the parliamentary election campaign began in October 1989. It is well known that when democracy in a country flourishes, so does the cultural movement. Those involved with culture and arts were optimistic with the openness that was supposed to accompany democracy, for now they had the chance to write, speak and analyse in the way they saw fit without any restrictions from the government.

Certain sectors in society, however, are stepping over the freedoms of other people's right of expression. Let's face it: The traditionalists in the country are going to lengths to suppress the right of people to even view forms of arts that are not "traditional." If we are to develop culturally, then let the cultural movement be left alone to experiment and deal with the arts in the way it sees fit.

As an example of societal oppression, some viewers who saw Palestinian director Michel Khleifi's last film, *Nasheed Al Hajjar* (Ballad of the Stone) about the Palestinian uprising, were "disturbed and unhappy" about some of the scenes portrayed in the film, namely, the love relationship between a Palestinian couple. No problem. These viewers have the right to feel as such, although it is very unfortunate that the only thing these people could see in the movie was not related to the suffering and pain facing Palestinians under Israeli occupation. But when vandalism and hooliganism take place, this is where their "freedom of expression" ends.

Last Wednesday night, when *Nasheed Al Hajjar* was being screened for the third time at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, in response to public demand, some ultra conservatives threw a smoke bomb in the hall where the film was being shown. This not only created a panic among the audience and the cinema committee of the foundation, but the screening that was scheduled for Thursday was cancelled, despite the fact that many people still lined up to see it.

Tolerance is the key to democracy. Just like many citizens do not interfere in the private lives and cultural tastes of the "traditionalists," then the cultural rights and tastes of others should be respected.

But at the same time, if hooliganism and threats of vandalism occur, then those who are supposed to be "culturally progressive" should not give in to the muscle of those who cannot accept others with different viewpoints and outlook on life. The cultural movement should continue to go forward and develop instead of fearing the backward acts of violence from intolerant groups. In other words, the film should have been screened as scheduled, because there is a large majority (yes, a majority) that does not accept being oppressed in this manner. The film is just one example, and perhaps just a beginning to a series of intimidating attitudes by those who think they have the right to impose their beliefs on others.

Imagine if the "cultured" are continuously harassed like this! If we are to fear the wrath of those who are a threat to our cultural development, then development there will not be.

Punctuation — a real burden

By Haya Hussaini

IN a headline entitled "Egypt — heading for Elections?" (April 5-6, page 4) I took the hyphenated words to suggest a new verb — what a word-architect of an editor! As it turns out, that wasn't a hyphen — a dash, rather, and it should have read: "Egypt — (dash) heading towards elections?"

What a burden punctuation is. Omit a semi-colon and someone will scream that you've insulted them. Omit a comma and you're misquoting.

But punctuation is no longer the basic set of rules for any art-form; it has instead become a set of tools with which one interprets art. In written art form, punctuation is as much a part of content as is allegory, symbolism or imagery.

In certain visual art-forms like film-making, punctuation offers further contextual or structural interpretation. It may be the lifeline of the flow of images. I refer to the type of film that has some literary powers. Such films often lack a convincing, lifelike plot and usually nothing much happens. In these cases, directors rely on scenery, facial

expressions, movement and conversations that are rarely complete or constantly interrupted.

That, I think, is where punctuation may play its role: In its series of interruptions (dots, dashes or commas); in its expansion of visual detail (colons, dashes); in its tacit but suggestive imagery (ellipsis); in its approach to the unknown, undetermined (question mark); in its brief side-imagery (brackets).

I don't know. Perhaps someone, someday, will write his or her Ph.D thesis on visual punctuation in the films of, say, Palestinian director Michel Khleifi. Until then, we have to convince ourselves that punctuation matters.

Nonsense, after all, if artistically conveyed in any art-form makes sense. So does distortion. The irrelevant is itself an extension of how we see the world. Punctuation then, being another tool, cannot be immune to literal interpretation, even if we only mean to use it conservatively.

In one Michel Khleifi's films, the conversations between a couple are remarkably toneless or "dull" as described by some people. I take that to mean one thing: The director wasn't using speech marks.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

When I was a researcher for the writer of a book concerning the Middle East in the early fifties, I visited your country, and enjoyed a most pleasant holiday.

Now I am a published writer of many decades who pursues postcard collecting as a hobby, and I thought perhaps you would have letters, from time to time, from people like me, on your editorial page called something like "Letters to the Editor."

I trade postcards with people in countries all over the globe, including Pakistan, Zimbabwe and Pitcairn Island. I would like to trade postcards with collectors in your country.

I will trade card for card, any interesting card of Jordan. If anyone is interested in receiving a postcard with a photograph of ex-President Reagan and a postcard with a map of Texas, I will trade same for a picture of King Hussein on a postcard and a postcard of the map of Jordan!

I hope Jordanians will write to me and trade cards, and I shall answer every letter.

Sincerely,

Elaine Anhalt-Stuart
3700 Wakeforest, #11
Houston, Texas 77098
U.S.A.

Pen pals

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to print my name and address in your newspaper in order to obtain pen pals in your country. I am 21 years of age and I will answer any letter I receive. I collect both stamps and postcards and I would love to swap these with anyone who is willing. Thank you and I hope that you can grant my request.

Mark Farley
P.O. Box : 10238
Adelaide Street
Brisbane
Queensland 4000
Australia.

Dear Sir,

I would like to have pen-friends from Jordan. Please publish my name and address in your newspaper. Interested persons, both male and female can write to me. There is no age preference.

I'm a man of 36 years, a teacher of English and business studies.

My hobbies are music, sports, reading, writing, photography and travelling.

Thanks in advance

Richmond A. Boateng
P.M.B. 209
Serekunda P.O.
Banjul, Gambia
West Africa.

Diary

THE CUSTOMS law in Jordan has among its articles a curiosity that can only be described as an "incentive for public hassle and personal gain." According to sources familiar with this law, if an importer is accused of "smuggling" they are liable for a fine that could reach seven times the cost of the product smuggled. Excellent, many would say. Serves those smugglers right. But consider this situation: An importer who made an order from a factory abroad received his goods and found that he received two additional items from one product but two less from another and the two products have similar prices. The obvious conclusion is that there must have been a mistake from the factory. Not to the Customs Department. This was considered "smuggling" in a recent case, and the importers had to pay a huge fine, in addition to being labelled a smuggler. The wisdom of this practice is that the fine is then distributed among the employees of the Customs Department, according to laws and regulations of the Customs Department. Perhaps this is better labelled "legitimate" corruption.

IN this holy month of Ramadan one is reminded of an Arabian fruit which seems to take its rightful place on the tables of many these days: Dates. But there is a story of how some gifts of dates for the poor in Jordan are finding their way to the medical alcohol factory. According to informed sources, dates which arrived in Jordan this year as gifts from certain Arab countries were stored in unfit areas for three months until worms found their way into the little brown pieces of fruit. Faced with dilemma, of how to give the poor dates with worms in them, the government looked for viable options. Usually these type of dates are sold to factories for alcoholic beverages but with the advent of democracy and the emergence of strong Islamic trends in the country, the dates were sold to the medical alcohol factory for JD 1 a tonne. The sources, who insisted on anonymity, maintained that this has been going on for years. Perhaps the representatives of the people could inform donor countries to donate their dates to these factories directly.

A Jordanian citizen, who is also an agent for Aeroflot in Jordan, has signed a contract with the municipality of Moscow and the Central Tourism Hotel there to open an Arab food restaurant with a capital of \$800,000. The restaurant will be able to accommodate as many as 200 people at one time. Decoration and service in the restaurant will reflect Jordanian culture including the dress of the waitresses who will be wearing Jordanian thoubes. The same Jordanian citizen had sympathy with the Jordanian embassy there and donated a facsimile machine as well as several telephone sets. Impressed by the generosity of this citizen, the ambassador sent a telegram to his ministry here informing them of this commendable move and furnishing them with the name of the citizen, obviously hoping that the ministry would thank him for his generosity. No. The ministry did not do that. It sent a telegram to the ambassador, with the following five-word question: "Who is so and so?" A relative of the misguided citizen, who also happens to be a senior government official, is joking about the whole matter, saying the gift holds with or without appreciation.

RADIO Jordan English service has dispensed with the services of one of its non-staff employees to cut unnecessary spending. According to sources, who requested anonymity, Sami Kamal, a disc jockey who had his own radio show, was asked to leave his work at the station because he worked longer hours than anybody else and therefore made more money than anybody else. This move comes as part of a policy in several government-owned institutions to fire workers who did not have a contract and to depend more on the abilities of their own staff who have been enjoying a measly monthly salary rather than being paid per hour of work or project. Sami Kamal was not available for comment.

DISTRIBUTORS of drip irrigation systems in Jordan are facing a problem that they believe could be made into an excellent episode of "That's Incredible." The Jordanian customs law allows for tax exemption only on complete drip irrigation systems but not on its constituent parts. So importers of this system imported complete systems and were exempted, only to be told later that these systems could not be sold as separate parts. According to one importer, the full system includes mainlines, "drip-lines, drippers, valves and fittings. Most of these elements are produced locally but the local productions of drip, nets and drippers "is not sufficient for the local market." What the importers are calling for is that drip irrigation parts be exempted as is the case with all other agricultural production material. Encourage local industry is the motto, many national enthusiasts say. Well, importers propose that customs tax be placed on the valves and fittings of this system because they can be used for purposes other than agriculture and maintain that the difference in freight which they estimate at 20 per cent is enough incentive. While this problem is finding its way from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Prime Ministry to the Customs Department and to all those concerned, farmers are not planting their crops and are awaiting the verdict of the authority in charge. Finally, if you think the problem is too complicated for you, then just imagine how those who are directly involved feel.

Normeen Murad

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all the others
— Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).
Never trust a man who speaks well of everybody
— John Churton Collins, English literary critic (1849-1933).
The greater the difficulty, the greater the glory
— Cicero, Roman statesman-philosopher (106 B.C.-43 B.C.).

JTV channel 2 weekly preview

Thursday April, 12

8:30 The Bill Cosby Show

Rudy protests the hard rules of the house and strikes a deal with her parents.

9:10 Basketball

10:00 News in English



Catherine Ross

10:20 Feature Film
Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here
Starring Robert Redford and Katharine Ross

The American Indian ordeal at the hands of the white man who was bent on changing their ways.

Friday April, 13

8:30 The Robert Guillaume Show Together Again

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

In part two, Vincent struggles to save a pregnant Katherine from her kidnappers.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincey Dead And Alive

The mysterious story of a dead man who is not completely dead.

Saturday April, 14

8:30 Surgical Spirit

Surgery is a serious profession and Sheila Sabatini will not have fun made at it. So when her eminent colleague Mr. Hope-Wynne appears in a comic photograph in a national newspaper her hackles rise at once.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film
Death of a Gunfighter
Starring Richard Widmark and Lena Horne

A western in which Widmark plays a small-town marshal with a dozen killings to his name. He falls out of favour with a group of local city councillors, all of whom want him removed. But how?

Sunday April, 15

8:30 Who's the Boss

Tony decides to give his daughter, Samantha, the ultimate incentive to go to college.

9:10 Without Borders

10:00 News in English



David Suchet as Poirot



A scene from Beauty and the Beast Friday at 9:10

10:20 Agatha Christie's Poirot

The Veiled Lady

Another multiple mystery that yields to Poirot's wit and mental powers.

Monday April, 16

8:30 Empty Nest

9:10 FIFA

10:00 News in English

10:20 Tuzitala (Episode 5 of 6)

Episode five of the continuing story of Robert Louis Stevenson's life in the Pacific. Matala makes peace offering to his adversary, but alas, the civil war engulfs them all.

Tuesday April, 17

8:30 Charles in Charge

Charles 'tries hard', very hard, to make himself an example to the kids.

9:10 Scientific legacy of the Arab World.

10:00 News in English

10:20 In the Heat of the Night

The Sparta jail is filled with women when the six wives of bigamist James Jefferson, visit him bearing gifts of food only to become suspects when the man dies of poisoning.

Wednesday, April 18

8:30 Laura and Disorder

9:10 A Horseman Riding By An Outbreak of Romance

10:20 News in English

10:20 Alice to Nowhere

The Australian outback is one of the last frontiers on Earth. Where the fierce heat, the relentless distance between small pockets of civilisation and the loneliness stretch human endurance to breaking point. This vast spectacular landscape is the setting of a chilling story of suspense "Alice to Nowhere."

Ramadan is 'kareem' for food merchants

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Food, food, everywhere but not a bit to eat before 6 p.m. During the Holy Month of Ramadan, which began two weeks ago, most of the world's 750 million Muslims fast from sunrise to dawn in order to feel what it is like for those who are hungry and poor and in observance with one of the main pillars of the faith.

While many people who fast frequently have stomach aches and feel nauseous after eating too much once they break their fast, many others are moderate in their food intake and are thus more likely to be following the essence of the whole exercise.

Most Jordanians eat meals that vary from "fast breakers" like soup, salad, stuffed lamb, chicken and other goodies to green onions, tomatoes, beans and bread.

The rise in prices of many consumer products and the stagnation of the country's economy have left a visible effect on both consumer and food prices.

Many merchants fear that sales of clothes, toys and household gifts at the end of Ramadan on the eve of 'Eid Al Fitr will be less than in previous years because of the decreased buying power of the dinar, the absence of expatriates so early in the year and the "bad" weather.

Some home delivery food merchants, however, were all smiles this week when they talked to the Jordan Times about their sales in the first week of Ramadan.

Ata Ali, considered one of the main takeaway food chains in Jordan, seems to be doing well; dozens of people stand in a queue to buy not only the famous sweet kataef



Home delivery food merchants are doing well in Ramadan despite rise in prices of many consumer goods.

but also, according to those responsible for sales of Arab sweets and hot meals, mansaf. The sales of legs of lamb and stuffed lambs are up by approximately 30 per cent and up to 40 per cent on the weekend.

A branch manager at Ata Ali, which has seven branches in the Kingdom, said that it had maintained its prices despite the increase in the cost of meat and various ingredients used to make sweets as well as butter and ghee.

"We used to sell a kilo of lamb meat, cleaned, cooked and garnished with nuts and all the other trimmings for JD 6.5. This year we sell it at JD 7.5, which is a minimal increase," said the manager of Ata Ali, Shmeisani. He added that snobar, used for garnishing lamb meat and stuffings as well as sweets, had gone from JD 3.5 last Ramadan to JD 14 this Ramadan and that the price of "quality"

lamb meat had risen from JD 3.5 to JD 4.5 per kilo.

"But, 'Al Hamdullah', this Ramadan as every Ramadan sales are up," he added.

Asked about the increase of their sales during Ramadan a senior manager of Ata Ali's main competitor, the six-branch Jabri food chain, refused to give even an approximate estimate of its sales. But, by a look of the queues, business is not falling behind.

The Ata Ali manager said that the sales at the chain's branches outside Amman, those in Irbid or Aqaba, registered lower increases in sales — approximately 25 per cent.

The manager of Moahtesem sweetshop on Gardens Street complained that Ramadan his sales had gone up by only five per cent and that his once thriving shop was "in the red" because of the increase in prices of certain "basic" ingredients for pastries and Middle Eastern sweets.

"Pistachios have gone from JD 0.82 to JD 4.6 a kilo; fresh cream from JD 1.6 to JD 3," the manager said.

"Now the government has put a tax on my terrace and is asking me to pay JD 20 for every square metre and I only use the terrace four months a year," he added.

"The government has put a tax on my terrace and is asking me to pay JD 20 for every square metre and I only use the terrace four months a year," he added.

His competitor, Jinini, down the street, had a different story to tell its sales are up by up to 50 per cent.

While the shop, which sells exclusively Middle Eastern sweets, also lamented the increase in prices of "basics" such as snobar, pistachios, cheese etc., it also said that sales this Ramadan were more than satisfactory.

"The butter we use has gone up from JD 12 a kilo to JD 38 a kilo and our cheese from JD 17 a kilo to JD 32. But, as you can see, at Ramadan is 'kareem' — generous," he said smiling.

This Week in History

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

1868 — British forces under Robert Napier capture Magdala in Ethiopia.

1909 — Army counter-revolution in Constantinople against rule of Mohammedan Union.

1986 — Stamped by Hindu pilgrims kills at least 46 people and injures 39 others at religious festival at banks of Ganges River northeast of New Delhi, India.

1989 — Independent Solidarity trade union in Poland files for registration after seven-year ban.

Thursday, April 12

1945 — U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at age 63, and Harry S. Truman is sworn in as his successor.

1961 — Soviet Union puts first man in a space-Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin makes safe landing after one orbit of Earth.

1966 — U.S. bombers carry out their first strikes against North Vietnam.

1987 — Soviet media reports that two cosmonauts walking in space successfully linked space module to their orbital space station Mir.

1989 — Relentless artillery battles rage between Christ-

ians and muslims as Lebanon's civil war enters its 15th year.

Monday, April 16

1942 — India's congress rejects terms of self-government offered by Britain.

1945 — U.S. troops enter Nuremberg, Germany, in World War II.

1947 — Fires and explosions wreck Texas city, Texas, as French freighter loaded with nitrate blows up, leaving eventual death toll of more than 500.

1964 — Nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo is placed under restriction in southern Rhodesia.

1970 — Alpine avalanche plunges down on children's sanatorium at Sallanches, France, killing 72 people.

1972 — U.S. Apollo 16 astronauts are launched to ward moon from Cape Kennedy, Florida.

1975 — Cambodian government in Phnom Penh asks for truce and offers to yield to Communist forces sweeping into city.

1988 — Commando unit kills Palestine Liberation Organisation military commander in Tunis.

The Associated Press

They are refurbishing our heritage

By Sa'ad G. Hattar

YES. Some people may have to steal. They steal to eat. Then they steal to tip. Many steal 10 per cent. I know someone who used to steal 12 to 15 per cent which made him a celebrity amongst the waiters.

Other people steal mosaic floors to decorate their homes, to make them look brighter, authentic and add to them a touch of je ne sais quoi.

The theft last week of a mosaic floor from Qasr Al-Hallabat, an invaluable Islamic retreat on the outskirts of Amman, fell under the second category. The husband dismantled the unique floor and whisked it away to his newly built villa. "Do you think we should place it on the veranda to show it off to our neighbours or use it as a kitchen table?" asked the anxious wife. "I don't think it would fit in the kitchen. Besides, we will have to use a table cover of the same colour shades and support it with stone legs, preferably of the same material," a confident husband replied.

"But we will have to fetch the legs from the Jerash ruins and, perhaps, we can get a corner stone from Petra to complement the setting."

— Yes, darling, but we can never fit all these items in our small kitchen."

"I think we had better rent our villa and go live in one of the desert castles, perhaps, the Mushata retreat; it is near the capital and quite spacious," the husband suggested.

"No I would rather live in Qasr Al Hallabat. It is fairly preserved and we can refurbish it to include a pool and an alarm system," the wife snapped. The far-fetched planning did not materialise. The next day the couple received a much better offer. A picturesque solitary confinement with a panoramic view, overlooking a row of neat cells on the right side and the prison's kitchen and wasteyard on the left side.

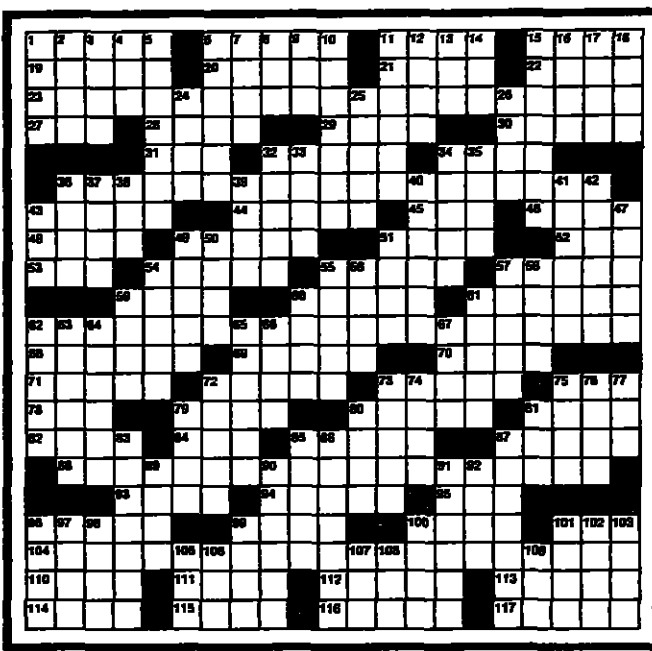
THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

CONNECTIONS
By W. Russell Mc Dowell

ACROSS
1 Keston of films
5 Fragment
11 Help a crook
15 Household member
19 Actor's treasure
20 Eng. royal house
21 Pro —
22 State of land: Fr.
23 Country singer with mocha?
24 Dollar bill
25 Poetic times
29 Browning on Grey
30 Go ity —
31 Indian
32 Paint

34 Nick & Nora's dog
35 Singer in Lone Star city?
43 Spinet or player
44 Mountain crest
45 Narrow inlet
46 Epochs
48 Oh city
49 Begets
51 Dramatic conflict
52 Can, prov.
53 — as
54 Macdonald
55 — of Troy
57 Planet
58 Robert or Alan
60 MO city
61 Ger. ruler once



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Does very nostalgic music remind us how things never really were?
2. Did refusal of his marriage proposal mean that dear young attorney lost his first suit?
3. Peach farmer gave old grandfather clock to kind mechanic for free repair on his van.
4. Former cold climate gave frigid midget a livid rigid digit.

Diagrams 17 X 17, By Craig Schultz

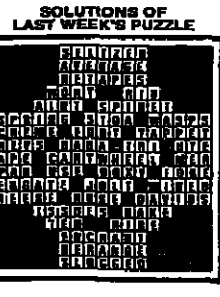
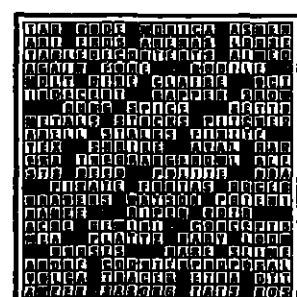
ACROSS
1 Swampy land
4 Read instrument
8 Napoleon's exile
10 Plays contrary to the rules
12 Actor Vigoda
15 Hitchcock movie
18 Decreases gradually
21 Endure
22 Whine tearfully

23 Culture medium
24 Wheel tooth
25 Pro —'s sake!
26 Colonial sentiment (part)
30 Suffice for beta or cyclo
32 Walk unsteadily
33 2nd pt. of 2BA
35 Colored
38 Election demand

37 Corroded
38 Barrel
40 Adhesive
43 Arab robes
47 Endorser
48 Fasteners
49 Handy headline
51 Provocatively, it
54 Australian birds

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. HUNT HOGAL MESSONI MOSSNAY
GLBBALY GLZUFC GI GUA UG EB SIL
FARNZ SILDAT CODA SOLD. —By Les Sherry
2. CKL YADTE EBWW OCHHKWL HSJEWYHSEK
JYSA DR ODMO JYCABDM TCBYJWJ. —By Earl Ireland
3. LKIGLOR YOKBZ IEUB LPAKP MPUPKKAEG
ITEOZ TKBZ BREAK LEG TRYMPPEK
BUMPHY. —By Ed Haddleson
4. NU SRDOMORK RATE US DRY OYLMINT
BTYYE LUKBOYA BODT. —By Norton Rhoades



B.C.



Cyrano de Bergerac — French season's brightest star

By Marilyn August
Associated Press

PARIS — Cyrano de Bergerac, whose long nose and gift of poetic gab make him France's most famous fictional character, is tugging at hearts again, this time on stage and in film in performances by France's two foremost actors.

Nearly 100 years after he was created for the stage, Cyrano is being portrayed simultaneously on stage and in cinemas in France. Jean-Paul Belmondo is dazzling audiences at the sold-out Marigny Theatre, while Gerard Depardieu is inducing tears — and laughs — in France's most expensive cinematic production ever.

The film, produced at a cost of \$17 million, opened in France to unanimous critical praise. It will open in the United States in December.

Painfully shy and downright ugly, Cyrano was a master swordsman with verve and panache who breathed his poetry and passion into the tongue-tied head of a handsome soldier to win the lovely Roxanne.

The classic tale of unrequited love got a modern face lift in 1987 in the American hit film Roxanne, starring Steve Martin and Daryl Hannah. Martin played a long-nosed fire chief in a contemporary U.S. small town.

The newest versions are faithful to Edmond Rostand's play set in 17th century France against a background of war between kings fought by swashbuckling gascons like D'Artagnan of the three musketeers.

Written by Rostand in 1897, Cyrano is as French as the national anthem. Children study it in school and audiences know the "nose" and "no thank you" tirades by heart.

Yet, it has defied film makers until now because of its alexandrine, iambic lines with six feet that rhyme. Rappeneau and veteran screenwriter Jean-Claude Carriere streamlined the original text, but critics say they sacrificed neither the poetry nor its romantic soul.

Cyrano also has endured because its story is timeless. Who has never felt despair

looking in the mirror or pain upon discovering that the one you love loves another?

"A little Cyrano sleeps in the heart of all of us," Depardieu has told interviewers.

Both Depardieu and Belmondo have received rave reviews from critics in their portrayals of Cyrano, considered one of the most difficult roles ever penned.

Depardieu, 41, is France's biggest box-office attraction with 60 films under his belt — and Cyrano, is his most brilliant performance ever.

"Cyrano? Bravo," headlined Le Monde. "Cyrano is fabulous," chimed in the often cynical Liberation, another major daily newspaper.

The movie was filmed on location in Hungary with 2,000 actors and extras in period costumes, 40 studio sets, 1,000 pikes and muskets. An entire forest was cleared to film the siege of Arras.

Studio Magazine — France's leading film monthly — devoted 20 pages to the film, and described Depardieu as "an actor in a state of

grace."

"Everything in Cyrano's character fits him like a glove," Marc Esposito wrote. "The power, the sensitivity, the arrogance, the complex, the fragility we sense under his imposing physique, belongs as much to Cyrano as to Depardieu."

Jacques Weber, who triumphed in his portrayal of De Guiche, the haughty count also enamored of Roxanne, called Depardieu "a bomb fallen from the moon."

For Belmondo, 56, best-known for his tough-guy roles in fast-paced thrillers, Cyrano marks a long-awaited return to his roots as a dramatic actor — and only his second stage appearance in 25 years.

Director Robert Hossein said playing Cyrano had long been a secret goal of Belmondo because the actor's father, Paul, used to say the role was the ultimate test for an actor.

"When will you go back to your real profession? I will die without seeing you as Cyrano," Belmondo senior would say as his son posted one



Gerard Depardieu (right) plays Cyrano de Bergerac in the film version which was directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau.

box-office smash after another, Hossein recalled. Paul Belmondo died sever-

al years ago.

"Belmondo is paying off a personal debt (to his father),"

wrote Jean-Pierre Thibaudat in Liberation. "If the movies hadn't been invented, he

would have been the Coquelin of our times. And Coquelin invented Cyrano."

Vietnamese guitar prodigy finds refuge in music

By John Miller

PALAWAN ISLAND, The Philippines — When Tran Vu Hung needs to find a little peace and quiet, he takes his guitar to the rocky beach by the First Asylum Camp on Palawan Island. There, alone at the edge of the turquoise Sulu Sea, he plays the works of 19th-century, Polish-born composer Frederic Chopin. For it's in music, and especially Chopin's music, that Tran feels most at home.

Feeling at home has a poignant appeal for Tran, a Vietnamese "boat person" who arrived in the Philippines after five grueling days at sea last May.

With his long, black hair threaded with white, his handsome face focused and hard, it's difficult to believe that Tran Vu Hung is only 25 years old. Hearing him play the guitar only reinforces that disbelief. He is a prodigy, an artist of rare skill and promise, known thus far to few outside the friends and neighbors who have heard him play in this crowded, relentlessly noisy refugee camp.

"I feel it in my gut that he's a great musician," says Victor Rockwell, an American Peace Corps volunteer who works as a teacher near the camp where Tran now lives. Rockwell, an award-winning classical guitarist who studied with some of the most accomplished players in the world, first met Tran while leading a Boy Scout outing. He had no idea then that the intense and energetic young Vietnamese was a gifted musician.

Then he heard Tran play at a birthday party for the local Catholic bishop. "Everybody there was overwhelmed," Rockwell recalls. "They gave him a standing ovation." Rockwell was fascinated by the unorthodox way in which Tran held his guitar and by his creative interpretations of the difficult pieces he played. He was so impressed, in fact, that he gave Tran his own guitar.

Although he is quick to point out that Tran still "makes lots of mistakes," Rockwell has no doubt that the young Vietnamese possesses and extraordinary talent. "I've worked closely with some of the best guitarists in the United States," he says, "and Tran is as good as any of them."

Is he in a class with world-famous guitarists such as Julian Bream, John Williams or Andres Segovia? Not yet,

the West, he explains, adding that he plans to go to Houston, Texas, where an aunt has already settled.

But it's an open question whether he'll be able to leave the camp where he now waits. Tran, like tens of thousands of other Vietnamese who landed in South East Asian countries in the past year, has no guarantee that he will be judged a true refugee — as opposed to an economic refugee — under a new screening procedure instituted by potential host countries. It used to be that Western "resettlement" countries like the United States, as well as "first asylum" countries like the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia, considered anyone fleeing Vietnam to be a political refugee. This is no longer the case.

Some 6,000 of the 9,500 says Rockwell, but in time he could well be. "I don't know if Tran is one in a century, or just maybe one in 10 years. But the point is, in my opinion, this guy is very, very special."

Tran himself is not reluctant to admit that he has a gift, and although he says that he uses the guitar primarily to "understand myself," he is eager to play for appreciative audiences. According to Rockwell, Tran has the kind of arrogance that is common to most great performers. "I like his attitude. He loves playing, and it shows. Tran Vu Hung should be entertaining people," he says.

Tran is largely self-taught but he admits that he went to several master musicians in Vietnam to work out specific technical problems. He would very much like to have a mentor, he says, but he feels that art is primarily inspiration, and inspiration can't be taught. He is interested in Zen Buddhism and practices meditation every day — no small achievement in a place where noise and activity never seem to stop. His dream is not so much to play in crowded American or European concert halls, but rather, to achieve a state of meditation while playing the guitar.

Tran agrees. "I am an artist," he asserts. After a pause he repeats himself, to make sure the point is clear. "I am a true artist." This is why he felt compelled to leave Vietnam, hoping for a chance to play and study in

people in the overcrowded Palawan camp arrived after March 1989, when the new refugee policy was signed into law here in the Philippines. The screening process itself just began at the end of last year, and so far roughly half of those screened have been designated refugees. Some officials are surprised that the number is so high. Although international negotiations on the refugees' fate are underway, no one knows at this point what will happen to the asylum-seekers who are told they don't qualify.

Tran says he doesn't worry. He's happy to be in the Palawan camp because he is free to play his guitar when he wants to play, without having to worry about making his living playing government-approved music or teaching. The third of seven children of schoolteacher parents, he says that he never really supported himself playing music in his native Nha Trang City, but that he did have students from time to time.

In fact, his best friend from Vietnam, Mguyen Ho To Uyen, a 17-year-old girl who plays and sings with breathtaking maturity and grace, is now staying in the same camp. Neither one knew that the other had left Vietnam. They met again in a "transit centre" in Manila and have been playing music together ever since. In all, Tran now has five students in the camp.



25-year-old Tran Vu Hung goes to a world of his own when he plays his guitar.

celebrated guitarists of the age. He is not afraid to compare himself with the great ones. He's convinced, for example, that his way of holding the guitar — with his legs crossed instead of slightly spread — gives him more speed and flexibility than, say, the legendary Spanish guitarist Segovia.

It's clear that Tran is not satisfied with simply following in the footsteps of the masters. In fact, he's like to change some of the art's fundamental groundrules.

"I have a plan for an eight-string guitar," he says matter-of-factly. Then struggling to find the words to explain his idea in English: "Because when I play a six-string guitar, I see that it's not enough. When I look at the history of the guitar, I see that it used to have five strings. So very soon I will build an eight-string guitar."

And where will he build it? "Here in the camp. In the next few months I will do it."

But isn't he impatient to leave, to get on with life? Tran shrugs. No, he will take things as they come. "I have a crazy idea," he confides with a laugh. "I help everyone, and the Gods help me." — World News Link.

Bram Van Velde (1895-1981) Painter of the invisible

By Oscarine Bosquet

PARIS — The Paris National Modern Art Museum is devoting a retrospective exhibition of 88 oil and gouache paintings to the artist Bram Van Velde, who, for thirty years, was ignored by the Paris and American public.

Bram Van Velde's painting came to the fore after the war in the existentialist climate of the Sartre years. It was discovered, defended and interpreted by Samuel Beckett as a work of the impossibility of being, and as the painting of nothingness and failure. His painting was confronted by all the ideologies and utopias of the post-war period. It was commonplace and its banality was a criticism of its contemporaneity. It was far removed from the manifestos and revolutions in art. He was struggling with the impossibility of painting.

His pictorial language historically came from the German expressionism of the 20s, Matisse's still-lives and windows, and the discontinuous, fragmented, broken-up spaces of cubism. In the 50s, he provided the link between the geometrical and lyrical abstraction of the Paris School, which he hated, American abstract expressionism, Picasso and Matisse, and line and colour. Just like with Pollock and de Kooning, Bram Van Velde's art is one of effacement and of calling the representation of the world and the object into question. But he said he did not know

what abstraction was, since painting "helps one to see, by making what one is unable to see visible". "Painting is an eye, a blinded eye which continues to see, which sees what blinds it."

First he painted portraits and landscapes, and still-lives in front of the window. One thinks of the world of Matisse seen by a post-cubist. In the 30s, African masks geometrised the picture into a thousand facets. Shapes became blurred. One had the impression of being very close up to things. It was increasingly difficult to recognise any form, although it was still there. There were fascinating motifs: fragments of faces, especially eyes; eyes looking at us, lost in the gliding areas of colour which cut out space in a thin layer.

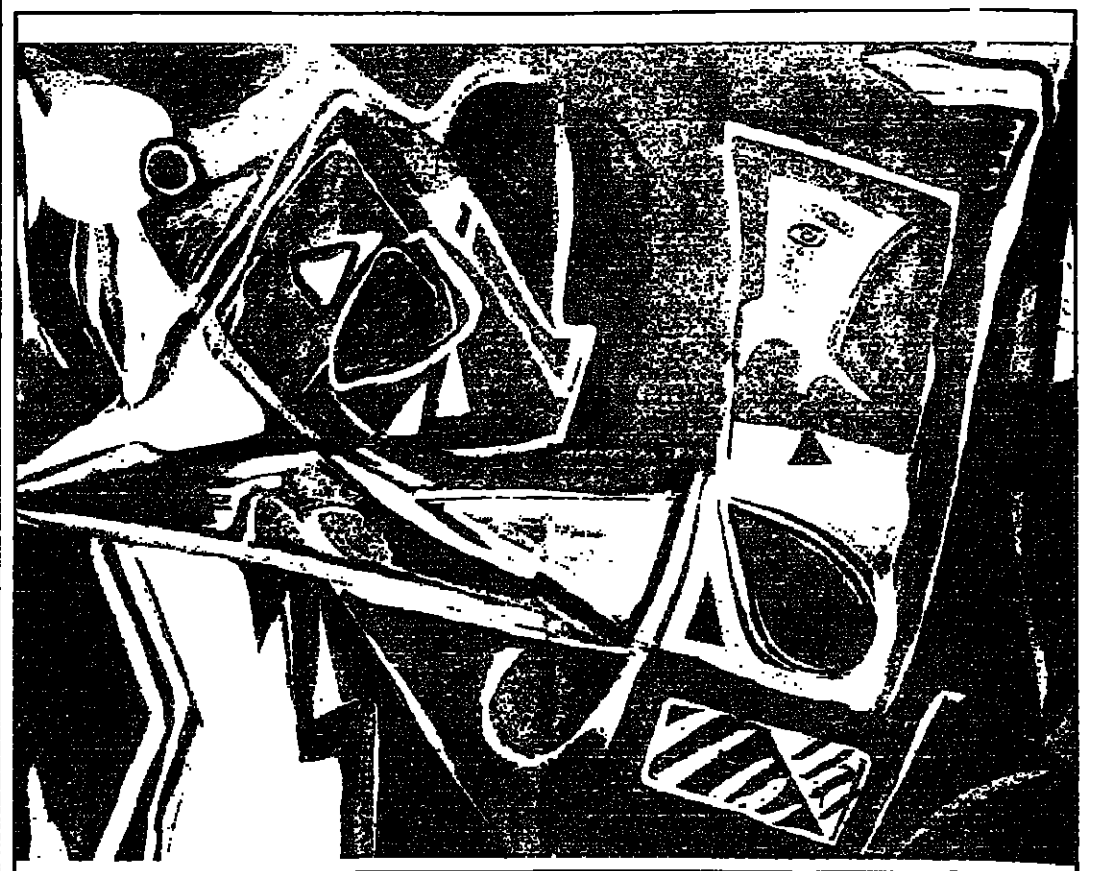
What one can see is unstable. One no longer knows if it is the line or the colour which defines the shapes. The drawing does not enclose the object. It goes into the circularity of the painting and its fluidity and liquidity. His painting stands at the point of balance between abstraction and figuration. It figures the invisibility of depths.

Bram Van Velde used to say that "painting means seeking the face of what has no face". A picture was the capture of what was fleeing. A picture was the face of what would not have a face without the eye of painting, the face of what underlies being.

The brush-strokes or the

features of a face build the flesh up into an orderly architecture. But it has a trembling geometry, shaken by the splashes of colour. The plan of the picture has to be thought of like the features of a face. Sometimes of flesh and the moods of the being disturb the features and displace them. Panic spreads across the face, the visibility and the pictorial plan of the picture. The painting is a skin-deep face. Each picture commits the painter to recognising a plan. He feels his way (one can see the alterations), caresses the canvas, clenches his fingers and recognises a face: that is the picture.

In the Renaissance, Alberti made the model of a picture. A window opening out on the world represented. Leonardo da Vinci compared it to a mirror. With Bram Van Velde's painting, the window and the mirror look at each other: "As if opening up the space of a world and appearing to oneself were a single gesture, the essential gesture of painting" (Jean Starobinski). Each picture is a self-portrait: it opens up on a mental space, a magma of shapes which collapse and slide, an interior in which things are not sure, fixed and determined, a labyrinth. "To no longer be a painter, but a being who pursues life through the means of colour. To paint, not in order to succeed in a picture, but in order to rush inside oneself and to make the being more keen" — L'Actualité en France.



One of the works of Bram Van Velde painted in 1940. Untitled

Marine disaster: Destruction of coral reefs

By Jon Miller

PALAWAN ISLAND, The Philippines — "You see those huts?" asks Norman Songco, pointing at a bare spot on the shoreline as the wooden boat chugs out into Puerto Princesa Bay. "They set up a sort of picnic area. The first thing they did was cut down all the mangrove trees. They thought they'd have a beach — what they got was a mud flat."

In itself, the tiny picnic area is not a major problem — 20 metres of blighted coastline and a buried stretch of coral reef — but to Songco it illustrates a point. You can't expect to cash in on the environment, he says, unless you are willing to do what it takes to preserve it.

Songco, a 39-year-old former engineer, makes his living guiding tourists to the coral reefs off the coast of this mountainous, sparsely populated island. Since they were "discovered" by divers a few years ago, those reefs have offered some of the most varied and colourful underwater scenery in the world.

But that, like so much here on Philippines' rugged last

frontier, is changing fast. Palawan's extensive coral reefs, still pristine by the standards of the rest of the Philippines, are in trouble. Rapid growth, poverty, corruption and simple ignorance have conspired against a fragile living environment that takes years to build and seconds to destroy.

Throughout the Philippines, and throughout the tropical oceans of the world, corals are disappearing at an alarming rate. Commercial fishing with explosives or cyanide — or with a barbaric method called "muro-ami" — cause the most dramatic damage. Mine tailings and industrial pollution pose serious problems in many coastal areas as well, and siltation from poorly planned logging and agriculture can have a lasting and devastating effect.

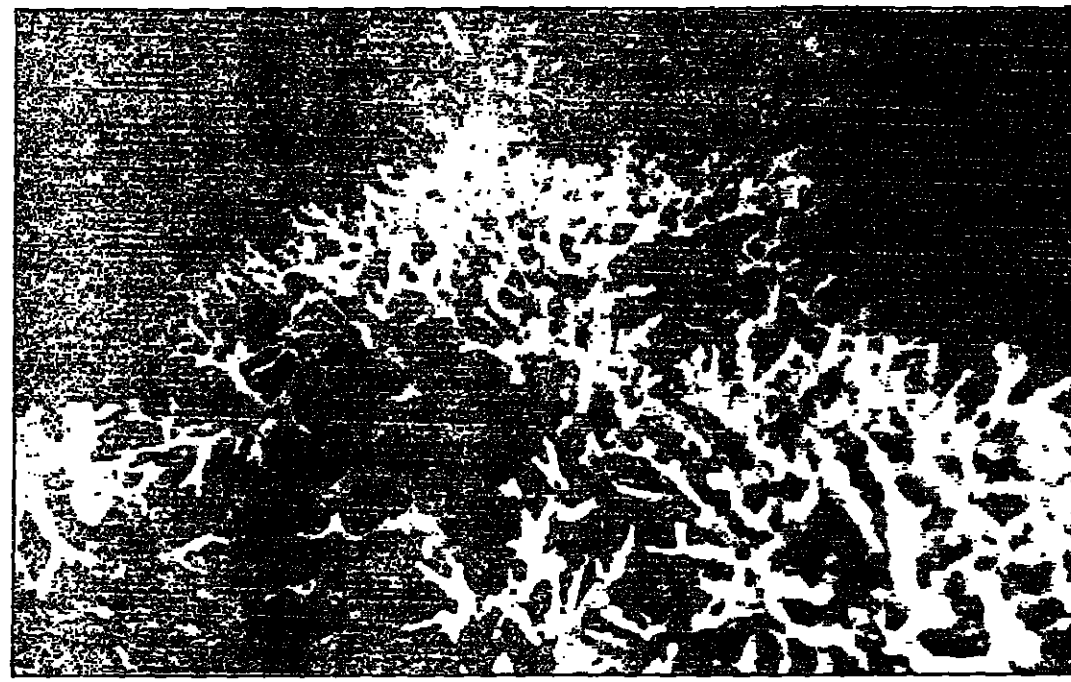
So far, scuba divers have been the most vocal opponents of the destruction of the Philippine reefs. Songco, for example, has become active in a local environmental group and has begun to document the damage he sees on his dives. Other divers have banded together to try to persuade the govern-

ment to designate prime diving spots as marine parks. But the crisis on the reefs is not just a divers' problem. Delicate reef ecosystems provide food and livelihood for millions of marginal fishermen and their families. Researchers at the University of the Philippines estimate that coral reefs provide as much as 25 per cent of the total catch of fish eaten in this island country. But if trends continue, there is no way that that level can be sustained. Scientists say that about 70 per cent of the country's reefs are at best in "poor to fair" condition and that as many as 40 per cent can be considered destroyed.

"The biggest problem is simply population growth," says Bill Staub, an Asian Development Bank official who has been active in the fight to save Palawan's Tubbataha Reef. Staub has watched Tubbataha — a remote preserve of 33,500 hectares (about 83,000 acres) with as much biological diversity as Australia's Great Barrier Reef — fall prey to an onslaught on "invaders" from islands whose reefs have already been ravaged.

Many of those invaders are poor fishermen looking for better catches, but some of the most threatening are large commercial enterprises. And although a good number are from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan, most are from the Philippines. In recent months a well-financed Filipino seaweed-farming company has taken advantage of the government's lax enforcement efforts and has set up illegal operations on a particularly sensitive section of Tubbataha Reef.

"It's a shame," laments Roland Rodriguez, a Palawan native and director of the island's environmental planning office. Rodriguez points out that migrants from other parts of the country are putting a strain on all of Palawan's resources and marine resources are no exception. Like many of the slash-and-



A healthy coral reef, one of a few left in the Philippines, to provide top fisheries and a paradise for scuba divers.

burn farmers who have ruined the island's upland forests, most of the people fishing in Palawan's waters have come from the overcrowded Visayas islands of the central Philippines. "They have destroyed the coral reefs in their own places," Rodriguez says, "and now they're coming here." The results have been disastrous. On Tubbataha Reef, 150 kilometres out to sea, fishermen report a catch that is one third of what it was six years ago.

Staub notes that poor fishermen throughout the country are beginning to recognise the need to preserve their fishing grounds, and in some areas they have begun to organise patrols to monitor destructive and illegal fishing. But although Palawan fishermen claim that it is mostly outsiders who cause the damage, they admit that it is difficult to resist environmentally destructive methods or to stand up to others who do so.

"In a lot of communities, people look at dynamite fishing the same way that urbanites look at jaywalking," Staub explains. "It's the sort of situation where if you play by the rules you lose, because so many people aren't playing by the rules."

Of all the fishing methods that destroy reefs, "muro-ami" is the most deadly. The technique was brought to the Philippines by Japanese

fishermen around World War II and has recently grown more popular. In large muro-ami operations, hundreds of young men and boys surround a boat, carrying long "scare lines" or ropes with weights attached. The boys swim along with the boat, banging the weights on the ocean floor and driving fish into large nets. It is extremely dangerous for the boys, who are sometimes required to dive without air tanks to depths as great as 30 metres, and the weights do tremendous damage to the corals.

But in the Philippines muro-ami is big business, and big business is politics. Despite a temporary ban on the practice, it has been widely reported that at least one influential politician with a financial interest in muro-ami fisheries has subverted law-enforcement efforts.

Even for the casual snorkel-diver, it's not difficult to locate the effects of pollution, siltation, explosives, poisons and muro-ami. Although the surface of the water may be calm, many places on the floor of Puerto Princesa Bay look like minefields. Here and there a stunning clump of coloured coral will raise out of a wasteland of pale, broken coral branches. Where blasting has occurred, it is easy to see where the charge was dropped, and where there has been runoff from nearby hills, suffocated corals are

easily seen. Yet Palawan's reefs are, by all accounts, in better condition than those almost everywhere else in this country of about 7,000 islands.

Dr. Porfirio Alino, a marine biologist at the College of Fisheries, reports that he routinely hears blasting during his research dives in the northern Philippines — as many as six explosions per hour. Alino has also studied the effects of mine tailings on corals. Off Cebu Island, Atlas Mining, a copper-mining company, dumps 110,000 tonnes of waste material per day which ends up covering corals and destroying the reefs without any hope of recovery.

Songco has been directly affected by the destruction. He moved to Palawan seven years ago, after the diving spots that he had frequented in the northern Philippines had been destroyed by dynamite fishing. They were favourite destinations for international divers.

He knows that fishing is more important to the country than scuba diving, but he, like other environmentalists, thinks that it is possible to live with the sea in a way that makes sense in the long term. "I'm not saying don't touch it," he says, looking out over the turquoise waters of Puerto Princesa Bay. "I'm saying, think about it, care for it, and use it right" — World News Link.

World climate is changing but no one is sure how and why

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

NEW ORLEANS — The world's warmest decade of the century has just ended and weather patterns around the globe seem to be distorted.

Alaska is getting warmer and the North Pacific is getting colder.

But scientists cannot say for certain whether recent climate changes are caused by the follies of man or the whims of nature.

A lack of computing power, data and understanding of the physical world is making it impossible for scientists to predict either global or regional climate changes on a long-term basis, or determine the cause of those changes.

The scientific community is virtually united on the hypothesis that the burning of fossil fuels releases so-called "greenhouse" gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂), that trap heat near the Earth's surface and thus cause temperatures to rise.

"One of the phenomena we understand best is the greenhouse effect," said Michael Schlesinger, professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois. "We may not understand an enhanced greenhouse effect... but I am absolutely certain that temperatures will rise."

But scientists cannot say whether the greenhouse effect is already in place and, if it is, what effect it is having on the world's weather.

"Climate has always changed since the Earth has formed and climate will continue to change, regardless of the greenhouse gases," said David Aubrey, a scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

Thus, there is little unanimity about the cause of recent seemingly unusual weather patterns. For, while most of the world has been steadily growing warmer since the end of World War II, the warmest decade in the United States was the 1930s — before the massive industrialisation of the country.

And, while the largest recent global warming trend has been in Alaska, the neighbouring North Pacific Ocean has got colder.

There are five established computer models of global weather patterns and each of them, using the same set of data, comes up with a different scenario for the next 50 years.

"The trouble is there are fundamental flaws in each of the models," said Roger Revelle, director of the programme in science, technology and public affairs at the University of California at San Diego.

"We don't really understand the way oceans, clouds and several other things interact to make weather in a particular effect," he said.

"Even if we increased existing computer power by a hundred-fold, we would still have problems because we just don't understand the physics of climate."

This uncertainty is not uncommon in many scientific fields but in the area of climate it gives government policy makers a reason to delay action on reducing CO₂ emissions.

U.S. President George Bush's only concrete action in this area, for example, has been to call for more research. He told an international conference on climate change this month that scientific knowledge must be improved before policies can be put in place.

"Some may be tempted to exploit legitimate concerns for political positioning. Our responsibility is to maintain the quality of our approach, our commitment to sound science and an open mind to policy options," Bush said.

However, scientists at the recent American Association for the Advancement of Sci-

ence conference in New Orleans said it will take a minimum of 10 years before computer modelling will even begin to accurately predict climate change.

In the meantime, they say, CO₂ emissions will continue to rise, making the greenhouse effect harder to reverse.

"By the time the climatic response (to greenhouse gases) is obvious, it may be impossible to reverse global warming," said Kevin Trenberth of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

Most scientists do agree that the Earth has warmed up by about 0.6 degrees centigrade the past 100 years — a significant change considering that global temperatures have risen a total of only five degrees C since the end of the ice Age 18,000 years ago.

It is also widely agreed that there has been a 25 per cent increase in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere since the mid-1800s, thanks to industrialisation.

And most models show that, if CO₂ emissions increase by one per cent a year, a conservative estimate, the volume of the gas in the Earth's atmosphere will have doubled in the next 40 to 60 years.

There is less agreement on what happens next. Although the Earth is expected to get warmer, temperature predictions range from an increase of less than one degree C to as high as five degrees C.

The different climate models all show some disruption to weather systems at any temperature increase of more than one degree C.

According to these models, sea levels would be likely to rise, causing coastal flooding. Also, there would be more precipitation in some areas and severe droughts in others.

But no one is sure how global warming would affect specific regions. As a result, some scientists and many economists are opposed to big, and expensive, changes in fuel consumption.

"There is little certainty about the extent of mean global warming," said Lester Lave, economics professor at Carnegie-Mellon University. "In contrast, the cost of abating the emissions of greenhouse gases is certain."

Lave argues that policy-makers must weigh the certain costs of abatement against uncertain scenarios "that range from the trivial to the catastrophic."

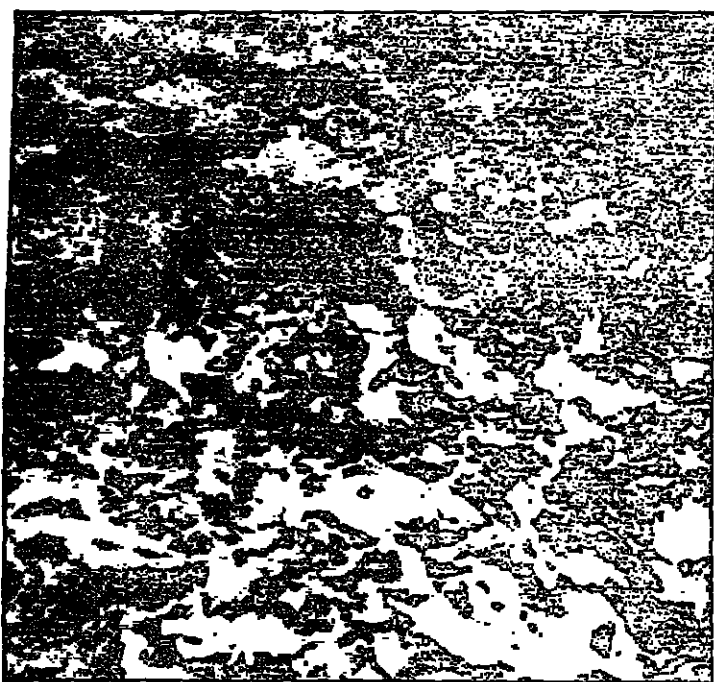
Looking at the issue from an economic perspective, Lave said, nations may be able to adapt to some global warming.

Other scientists, however, see imminent disruption, particularly in the developing world, from any further warming.

"There is every reason to believe that there would not be a smooth adjustment in the economy in the face of global warming because of the underlying chaotic nature of climate," said Daniel Lashof, an environmental scientist with the Washington-based Natural Resources Defence Council.

Lashof noted that rice is particularly sensitive to minute changes in temperature and temperatures in Asia are already at the upper limits of the crop's tolerance range. Consequently, most scientists argue that despite the uncertainty inherent in climate prediction models policies should be put in place now that would avert any potential catastrophe.

"This is a game of uncertainty. The whole climate change issue must be dealt with in terms of uncertainty," said Stephen Schneider of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research. "Our job is to make it clear how much more uncertainty there is in doing nothing."



A coral reef devastated by dynamite fishing near Palawan Island.

Psychiatrists probe inner reaches of kleptomaniac's mind

There is still disagreement on whether the compulsion to steal, kleptomania, is an addiction or something else. Investigations are continuing. Dorian Weickmann wrote this story for Die Zeit.

While others stay in bed late on Saturday morning, Helmut H. runs round the city centre buying the week's groceries: food, drink and household items.

He isn't single, but his wife is barred from shopping in department stores, supermarkets, boutiques and even at the greengrocer's next door.

Emmi H. is a kleptomaniac. On her way into the glamorous temples of consumerism she "helped herself" for years.

She was unable to resist the temptation to shoplift a lipstick here, a teeshirt there, and a toothbrush in the shop next door.

Gradually the wardrobe in their bedroom was full to overflowing with enough goods to stock a corner shop.

Mrs. H. was caught, prosecuted, sentenced and banned from setting foot in shops where she had been caught shoplifting. But she couldn't resist the thrill of "trying her luck."

Shoplifting is an everyday occurrence. Nearly 350,000 cases were registered in 1988. No-one knows how many involve kleptomaniacs.

Hanover psychologist Adelheid Kühne says court cases occasionally reveal that offenders aren't just thieves with an eye for the main chance but pathological cases who can't help themselves.

Kleptomaniacs are shamed into silence and scared of punishment; they seldom own up to their condition.

Just occasionally, when the

pressure and the agony are too much, when members of the family explode, when a court case is in the offing, some may decide to visit a therapist.

Where taboos are rife, so is speculation. Women, the yellow press regularly suggests, are more often guilty of "helping themselves" than men.

Journalists' fantasies extend to orgiastic pleasure shoplifters allegedly feel when they get away with it.

Dr. Kühne, in contrast, says kleptomaniacs are no less often men than women. As for orgiastic sensations, academic proof is not available.

But, she adds: "The fairy tale of women shoplifters goes so well with visions of women addicted to luxury."

Kleptomania has nothing to do with a yearning for luxury, however. Kleptomaniacs don't, as a matter of principle, steal goods for purposes of enrichment. Psychologists and psychiatrists are agreed on this point.

They have been at loggerheads for years on another fundamental issue. Is kleptomania an addiction or isn't it?

Herbert Ziegler of the Addiction Research Centre in Hamm, Westphalia, outlines the viewpoints as follows: "While psychologists for the most part pigeonhole kleptomania as an addiction and, as such, as a separate and distinct illness in its own right, psychiatrists tend to regard addictions lacking in a narcotic, such as kleptomania, as symptoms of a depression or neurosis."

This may sound like a

minor matter of definition, but in therapy it has far-reaching consequences.

Psychologists see abstinence, that is refraining from addictive behaviour, in this case theft, as the main aim of therapy.

Psychiatrists in contrast aim mainly at curing the state of mind they diagnose as being off balance.

Frankfurt psychologist Werner Gross, in his recent book *Sucht Ohne Drogen* (Addiction Without Drugs), classifies kleptomania alongside compulsive gambling, workaholism and bulimia as a substance-related addiction.

He sees this category as corresponding to alcohol, pill-popping and narcotics. It is not just that they, like the more conventional addicts, are increasingly preoccupied with their addiction.

Like conventional addicts, they are no longer in a position to control their behaviour in a risk situation and need to increase the frequency and dosage of what they get their kicks from.

When it isn't available they complain of physical withdrawal symptoms such as palpitations, fits of dizziness and trouble with their vision.

Gross feels addicts in both categories have the same objectives: Both to bring about a direct change in their consciousness and to escape from themselves and from what seem to be conflicts that defy solution.

Iver Hand, head of the behavioural therapy unit at Eppendorf University Hospital, Hamburg, agrees with Gross on the latter criterion.

On all other points the Hamburg psychiatrist, who since last September has, together with psychologist Gisela Sauke, been engaged

in the first research project on kleptomania ever undertaken in the Federal Republic, disagrees with him.

To equate substance-unrelated states of dependence, such as kleptomania or bulimia, with the state of an alcoholic or a drug addict is, Hand says, to go in for a deliberate misnomer.

Gross and the "addiction aficionados" in his view make light of the fact that "substance-related addiction can lead to physical, organic, to brain changes that impair the patient's ability to cope intellectually and emotionally with environmental influences, including therapeutic treatment, and eventually make them unresponsive to therapy."

Hand thus prefers to refer to "non-substance related dependencies" or to "pathological or compulsive theft."

Both are forms of dependence in which the intellectual and emotional ability to handle and respond to situations is retained. It may be mentally blocked but can be remobilised by psychotherapy.

Addiction as a diagnosis invariably involves the stigma of what is usually a life-long, incurable complaint. Patients inevitably come to feel they are suffering from what, for the most part, is a complaint that is biological in origin and can only be suppressed by means of total abstinence.

Strict abstinence, as required by classic addiction therapy along Alcoholics Anonymous lines, accordingly plays no part in the short-term outpatient behavioural therapy kleptomaniacs undergo at Eppendorf University Hospital.

Hand and his staff devised their therapy in work with compulsive gamblers. They

spent 10 years studying over 150 compulsive gamblers in three research projects.

Their case studies were of people who fed their bottom dollar to fruit machines or to blue it in at the casino — and usually ran up heavy debts too.

Long-term research showed the behaviour of pathological gamblers to be based on mental imbalance.

Hand and his associates are convinced that this pattern of active conflict suppression can be applied in equal measure to compulsive thieves or eaters. They all use their behaviour as a cover-up for states of depression or neurosis.

Their complaint also enables them to maintain the circumstances that led to their depression or neurosis in the first place.

The patient is thus seen as being kept by his complaint in the environment which triggered his complaint in the first place.

Kleptomaniacs themselves admit to feeling a sense of mental relief during the act of theft, to forgetting themselves and their everyday problems and conflicts.

For a brief moment the inner tension that otherwise hems them in is relieved. But as this state of relief only lasts a few days (it can be only a matter of hours) they soon feel compelled to do it again.

Iver Hand and Gisela Sauke accordingly feel the foremost objective of their therapy must be to decipher the covert conflicts that trigger behaviour patterns of this kind and, jointly with the patient, to process them.

Not until the kleptomaniac has learnt to see his symptom as a signal of an abortive or misspent lifestyle is he felt to

be in a position to break out of the vicious circle of his dependence.

The therapist's main concern is thus not with the symptom but with its causes, such as partnership conflicts, childhood traumas the patient has been unable to handle, upsets in the patient's self-valuation.

In practice short-term outpatient behavioural therapy is not much different from most courses of conversational therapy.

The aim is to enable patients to understand the background and function of their kleptomania by means of individual, family and marital or partner counselling.

In a further stage patients are to learn how to arrive at decisions of their own on their problematic behaviour.

If they decide to go shoplifting, then let them do so knowingly and fully aware of what the consequences may be.

Responsibility, not abstinence, is the keyword.

This is the point on which the "addiction aficionados" and the "anti-addiction aficionados" most strongly differ. Psychologists such as Werner Gross do not, of course, deny that a suppressed conflict or an underdeveloped sense of one's worth lies at the bottom of pathological theft, compulsive gambling and gluttony.

But their therapeutic approach clearly concentrates, in the classical manner, on abstinence and on giving up theft or gambling. Only once the patient is abstinent, Gross says, can he establish the necessary inner detachment from his addictive behaviour and take over control of his own life.

Protest greets senators

(Continued from page 1)

candle-lit vigil of about 200 people — some of them wearing colorful Palestinian dresses and holding placards. The otherwise silent protest was marred only by a short spell of booing which some people said was sparked by a comment by one of the senators that "Jerusalem is Israeli and is united" apparently in reply to the banners which proclaimed "Jerusalem is holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews."

It was not immediately clear which of the senators made the remark. According to several members of the protest group, including David Sulaiman, a former member of parliament, the comment came from Howard Metzenbaum, a Democrat from Ohio and a staunch supporter of Israel. Haj Zaki Al Ghul, a member of Jerusalem Municipality, said it could have been Metzenbaum but he could not be sure. There was no independent confirmation of the incident. No American official could be immediately reached for comment.

Among the slogans pointed out by the protesters, which included many children wearing the Palestinian chequered headcloth, were: "Acknowledgement of Jerusalem as capital of Israel equals declaration of war"; "Playing with Jerusalem is playing with fire"; "Bush courageous, Senate outrageous"; "U.S. Senate resolution violates U.S. constitution"; "Be free of the Israeli lobby"; and "Israeli lobby dictates, American people pay."

An occasional Palestinian nationalist slogan was heard, but the chanters were immediately silenced by the organizers, who insisted on keeping to the traditions of a "silent, peaceful protest."

Inside the hotel lobby, the senators held a brief meeting with six representatives of the protest group, organized by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Jordan Chapter.

Among those expressing the Arab rejection of the Senate resolution on Jerusalem was former minister Hassan Mawlawi, former Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Faraj and ADC Amman Chapter President Nidal Sukhitan in addition to Ghul.

In reply to pointed remarks that the U.S. Senate resolution was totally unacceptable in terms of international legitimacy and that it contravenes long-standing official American policy on the status of the Holy City, Dole would only point out that the resolution was "non-binding" on the administration.

Substitute laws drafted

(Continued from page 1)

level, are under way with Syria to release Jordanian detainees from Syrian prisons. In January, the Lower House sent an appeal to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad calling for the release of Jordanian prisoners, some of whom have been held since 1970.

According to Karak Deputy Isa Madanat, at least five of the detainees were senior leaders of the Dabist and Syrian Salqa parties, and were imprisoned by the Damascus government in 1971.

The five, according to other sources, are Hakem Al Fayez, Tufayl Musa Al Jamani, Mujalli Nawwara, Hassan Al Khatib and Yusef Juma Al Barji. No exact dates of their imprisonment are available but all were

Jerusalem to be their holy city as well," was accepted by the senators. The memorandum also pointed out that the resolution constituted a "grave injustice" and urged the Senate to "reconsider" its politically motivated resolution.

When it was requested of Dole that a copy of the memo be conveyed to President George Bush, Dole threw off an over-the-shoulder reply: "He doesn't need a copy." It was not clear what the Senate minority leader meant by his remark.

Outside the lobby, meanwhile, the reported comment by one of the senators that Jerusalem was Israeli and what some saw as the "cold-shoulder attitude of the senators" appeared to have kicked off a controversy and threatened to undermine the otherwise "diplomatic atmosphere."

"We have been taught to believe that America stood for fairness and democracy," said Ghul. "What we saw and heard here today proves that it is not so. The senators obviously came here with the preconceived idea that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel as the gentleman said at the entrance. So, I really do not know why they bothered to come."

The Senate delegation's current Middle East swing, which has already taken them to Syria and Egypt and will include Iraq and Israel, is described as a fact-finding mission. In his curt, brief exchange with the representatives of the protest group, Dole said the American and Jordanian governments had "very strong relations." He reaffirmed that the appeal of the group was "the same that we heard from the King." "We are hoping for peace in the region," he said.

Representatives of the ADC, the Human Rights Group, the Jerusalem Forum, The Jerusalem Philanthropic Society, Basira, the American University of Beirut graduates and the Association of Jordanian Writers took part in Wednesday's protest action.

The senators flew in from Egypt and were to fly to Baghdad early Thursday. Also on the delegation are senators Alan Simpson of Wyoming, James McClellan of Idaho, Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey and Charles Grassley of Iowa, all Republicans.

Asked about the trip to Iraq, Dole told reporters on arrival: "We're going to listen to President (Saddam) Hussein, but we are also going to express real concerns we have in the United States."

Relations between the two countries have been strained by U.S. allegations Iraq tried to smuggle nuclear triggering devices, by Hussein warning he would "burn half of Israel" if attacked and by the U.S. expulsion of an Iraqi diplomat.

said to have banked at supporting Assad when he assumed power in 1971.

Mohammad Ibrahim Ahmad Rabaa is another Jordanian held in a Syrian jail since 1987, according to Irbid Deputy Mohammad Al Alawneh.

Answering another question, Madanat said Wednesday he did not know whether any Jordanian "political prisoner" was held in Iraq.

He also said he had no information that some "agents" of the Israeli secret service Mossad were held in Jordan. Some external reports have said that several people were detained in Jordan on suspicion that they were Mossad agents and that the Jordan Bar Association had turned down approaches to defend them in court.

IMF said seeking cuts

(Continued from page 1)

Last week's five days of talks with the IMF cleared the way for rescheduling \$640 million in foreign debt instalments due in 1991 to foreign governments. Jardaneh said the agreement reached with the IMF would help Jordan to "reschedule the largest possible portion of \$450 million in interest due on foreign loans in 1991."

The finance minister said the negotiations "facilitated the process of securing Jordan \$325 million in fresh loans from the World Bank, Japan and West Germany."

A statement issued by the Ministry of Finance last Thursday said the agreement covered the remaining portion of a \$44 million IMF standby credit, a \$150 million loan from the World Bank, a similar amount from the Japanese government, and \$25 million from West Germany.

Peres gets 15 days

(Continued from page 1)

After a tumultuous debate in which Jewish and Arab members traded abuse, with hapless Speaker Dov Shilansky incapable of maintaining order, parliament adjourned. It is not due to meet again until the regular summer session opens May 7.

"Today's production was a disgrace to the Knesset. Democracy is turned into a kind of farce," Likud caucus leader Sarah Doron said on Israel Radio.

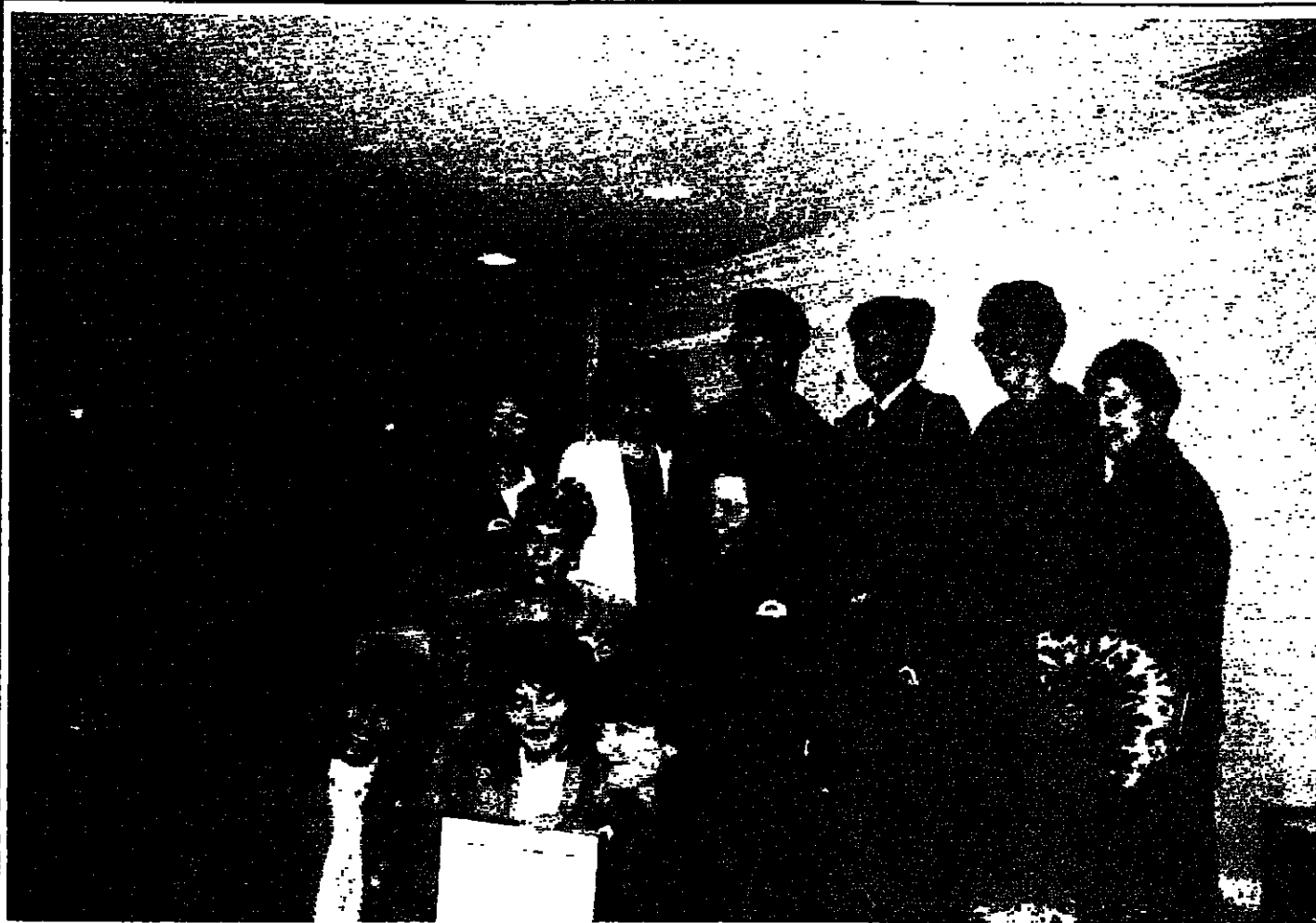
Labour opened Israel's latest official crisis last month by walking out of a 15-month-old national unity government with Likud over Shamir's sacking of Peres and his refusal to accept U.S. proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. Parliament passed on unprecedented no-confidence motion Shamir's rump cabinet on March 15 and Herzog asked

Peres five days later to form a government.

The Labour leader informed the president last week he had a majority after embittered former Likud Minister Avraham Shafir crossed the floor to Labour. Likud meanwhile worked to persuade the New York-based Lubavitch religious sect to instruct its followers in Agadat Israel not to support Peres.

The religious Shas party, whose five abstentions brought down Shamir, proposed Wednesday that a new national unity coalition be formed in which the premiership would rotate between Labour and Likud.

Both Shamir and Rabin refused comment after the session. Likud parliamentarian Binjamin Begin, son of former prime minister Menachem Begin, accused Peres of dragging parliament and Israel's political system into disrepute.



Laila Imeish (standing, second from left) was among 12 Canadian women who were last year's top Women on the Move, chosen from among 200 nominees.

Jordanian immigrant honoured in Canada

Laila Imeish, a Canadian of Jordanian origin, has been named in Toronto as one of twelve Women on the Move for her role in advancing the cause of women in Canada and especially the cause of new immigrants.

Laila Imeish knows about immigrants. She was an immigrant child when her family left Jordan and moved to Spain. Then, as an immigrant teen, Imeish came here (Canada) in '71, got herself through university, then settled back into the immigrant community where

she's spread her wings for the past 10 years.

As co-ordinator for the Immigrant Women's Job Placement Centre, Imeish has met women from countries as different as Afghanistan and Yugoslavia and 70 countries in between. She's met rich and poor, educated and not, those who speak their own tongue and those whose languages include almost everything but English.

To each of them she puts two questions: What can you do to earn money, today?

What can you do for the rest of your life? Helping immigrant women out of the job ghetto is neither pretty nor high profile. It's convincing an employer to give an immigrant a job, building a network for Portuguese cleaning ladies, teaching immigrants Canadian office etiquette, and urging them to upgrade their English skills.

In seeing many women immigrant architects cleaning the buildings they had been building back home, she got the idea to implement a Computer Aided Design Drafting Pro-

gramme at George Brown College. It helps immigrants with a design background to translate the skills they learned in their own countries — 90% of those who've gone through it are working today.

Often, it's one-to-one support she offers. A Russian woman with PhD in library science was on welfare here when she met Imeish. Over time, Imeish helped the woman upgrade her degree, get into university and eventually get a job with one of the province's largest libraries.

Poindexter: Key in Reagan's greatest scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House aide John Poindexter took his guilty verdict in the Iran-contra scandal like the gruff navy man he was: stoic and on his feet as he faced a federal jury.

Poindexter, a pipe-smoking retired admiral who had served as national security adviser, was convicted Saturday of all five felony charges against him stemming from the arms-for-hostages deal — the worst scandal of the Reagan administration.

Poindexter will be sentenced on June 11 and faces up to \$1.25 million in fines and up to 25 years in prison. He is the highest-ranking Reagan administration official convicted of a felony in the case.

The conviction marks a downward slide for a hard-charging officer known as one of Washington's iciest customers.

Poindexter, 53, moved up in national security council ranks to succeed Robert McFarlane as director on Dec. 4, 1985.

The Washington, Indiana, native was ousted 11 months later following the disclosure that profits from the clandestine arms operation were diverted to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contra rebels.

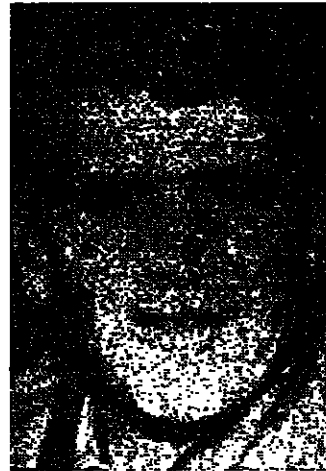
Poindexter helped secure his steady reputation in 1987, when he told a Senate hearing he took



Ronald Reagan



John Poindexter



Oliver North

responsibility for the affair — confirming Reagan's claim he knew nothing about it.

"On this whole issue, you know, the buck stops here with me," he said. Poindexter returned to his office after the stunning admission and had breakfast at his desk as usual.

After his resignation, he was passed over for permanent appointment to the vice admiral's rank he had held in the White House, and he slid back to rear admiral's rank. He later retired.

A presidential review board

also accused him of misleading other officials about the secret Iran policy.

While in the White House Poindexter was known for aggressive global policy.

In 1986, he was identified as the author of a plan to mount a "disinformation" campaign designed to help Libya's Muammar Qaddafi.

Poindexter also was credited with masterminding the October 1983 interception of an Egyptian jet carrying the escaped hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille

Lauro.

The admiral served as an aide to the secretary of the navy before joining the White House staff in 1983.

He graduated first in his class from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1958 and also commanded the brigade of midshipmen, equivalent to being chosen as the best cadet — a rare double distinction. He did most of his sea duty aboard destroyers.

Poindexter's wife, Linda, is an Episcopal priest. They have five sons.

Educated Soviet immigrants face tough task finding a job in Israel

By Miriam Jordan Reuter

TEL AVIV — Yuri Melman was a mathematics professor before he left Leningrad for a new life in Israel. Now he drives a taxi.

Soviet Jewish immigrants pouring in daily are eager, hard-working and educated. But with unemployment at a two-decade high, job-hunting is a daunting experience.

In the struggle for survival, the only alternative may be to abandon one's credentials.

Some 50 highly educated Soviet Jews are packing fruit in boxes for export in the town of Rehovot. Another 60 are working in a textile factory near the city of Ashdod.

"In Kiryat Yam, Soviet doctors are sweeping the streets," said David Menna, director-general of Israel's employment service.

At the canteen of the Jewish Agency, a quasi state body which promotes immigration, one of the tea ladies was a

Arab World, Israeli leaders enthusiastically welcome the newcomers, saying they will enrich the country with their culture and skills and inject life into the stagnant economy.

"This aliya (immigration) is like a blessing from heaven. It is the fulfillment of the biblical prophecy ... they are a good element — motivated, patriotic, constructive and productive," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said recently.

The need to build 30,000 homes for the immigrants fuelled heated debate when legislators voted on a new budget for the fiscal year starting April 1. Parliament added a last-minute \$100 million allocation for housing.

But some officials said the government should have worried about employment first.

"It's a real problem ... the priority should be employment then housing," Menna said.

Rafi Melnik, head of the central bank's research department, said the biggest challenge was to harness the immigrants'

Israel's 8.9 per cent unemployment rate is the highest since the 10 per cent registered just before the 1967 war and the economy is stagnant. The rate was 6.4 per cent in 1988.

doctor in Siberia two months ago.

"Soviet Jews know it's difficult to find work here because of unemployment and the economic situation so they agree to work at any job we can provide," Menna told Reuters.

Israel's 8.9 per cent unemployment rate is the highest since the 10 per cent registered just before the 1967 war and the economy is stagnant. The rate was 6.4 per cent in 1988.

Unemployment is likely to rise further in the coming months, labour ministry officials said.

For every job in physics there are 61 candidates. Twelve biologists queue for each laboratory opening. There are seven doctors and seven electrical engineers for each position. Four university professors compete for each teaching job.

Meanwhile plane loads of Soviet nuclear physicists, biochemists and geophysicists arrive in the Jewish state daily.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said 7,300 Soviet immigrants arrived in March, taking the total so far this year to more than 18,000.

Only 10 per cent are unskilled, the labour ministry said. Sixty per cent have professional or technical qualifications.

But many have very specific skills for which there is no market in Israel — such as ice engineers and fur engineers.

Officials expect about 100,000 Soviet immigrants to arrive this year. Some 750,000 are expected in the next five years — the biggest wave of immigration in 30 years.

While the exodus has alarmed Palestinians and the

skills to private industry instead of further bloating Israel's already overmanned public sector.

"There is a big question mark over whether the business community will rise to the challenge," he told Reuters.

The Soviet Jews usually spend six months in intensive Hebrew language programmes before beginning their job hunt.

Acting Labour Minister Ronni Milo told a recent cabinet meeting that unemployment would increase as Soviet Jews began to enter the job market in the next few months.

Greater demand for goods generated by the influx would not necessarily create jobs. Manufacturers could produce enough for a moderate rise in consumption with their current labour force.

But Menna said he hoped Soviet immigrants, if offered cash incentives, would accept blue-collar jobs often filled by Arabs or illegal foreign workers.

About 120,000 Palestinians work in Israel and 11,000 foreigners work here illegally, he said.

"We need to encourage Soviets by giving them a financial bonus. There aren't enough jobs for engineers. If I want someone to work in construction, I must give him a bonus," Menna said.

But Soviet immigrants said they had trouble coming to grips with physical work incompatible with their educational level.

"It's a psychological problem for us to take (just) any job," said Arkady Fischer, a Moscow endocrinologist.

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England takes third place in table tennis

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Skyler Andrew had a dream day at the European table tennis championships Wednesday when he helped England win third place in the men's team event with a 5-1 victory over Yugoslavia.

Andrew had sat on the sidelines since Sunday watching his team mates, silver medalists two years ago, win through to the last four.

England coach Don Parker decided to take a gamble in playing Andrew instead of the tired Desmond Douglas in the third-place playoff.

The move paid off when the extrovert Londoner beat Zoran Kalinic 21-19, 21-11 despite a nervous start and Ilija Lupulesku, ranked 11th in Europe, 12-21, 22-20, 23-21.

"Two players ranked considerably higher than him and he beat them both, so that's superb," said Parker after Andrew's debut in the division one category of the team event.

"As we weren't playing for the title and both teams get bronze medals I thought I would give Skyler a go and it was a chance to rest Des. He fought extremely hard and they were two excellent wins."

England number one Alan Cooke was the only man to lose, beaten 21-12, 21-9 by Zoran Primorac, following a 23-21, 21-14 win over Lupulesku. The steady Carl Preen added three game victories over Primorac and Kalinic.

Jasna Fazlic, ranked 15th in Europe, led Yugoslavia to a comfortable victory in the women's third-place playoffs.

Fazlic won both her singles and helped Gordana Perkunic, her partner at the Olympics when they won bronze together, to take the doubles as Yugoslavia beat the Netherlands 3-1.

Only Mirjam Hooman was victorious among the Dutch, winning the opening tie against Perkunic, world doubles silver medalist last year, in three games.

The result reversed the outcome of the 1988 European championships, in Paris when the Netherlands finished third and Yugoslavia fourth.

Sweden plays Germany Tuesday, Mikael Appelgren

extended his superb unbeaten run to put holders Sweden into the European table tennis team final for the 13th time.

But Appelgren and his team mates expect a difficult title clash after West Germany swept through their semifinal with a 5-0 thrashing of Yugoslavia.

"It is going to be tough," said Swedish coach Glean Osth after his team beat 1988 silver medalists England 5-1. "We have got to get a good start if we are going to win."

Appelgren, who is also defending his singles title here, did not drop a game in beating fellow left-hander Desmond Douglas and Carl Preen.

The Swede extended his unbeaten run in these championships to 10 wins and no losses and was expected to be Osth's first choice in deciding the line-up for Thursday's final.

World champion Jan-Ove Waldner was also in form but admitted he had found Douglas an easier opponent than expected.

"Douglas was not as good as he used to be," said Waldner who beat the Englishman 21-13, 21-15 after defeating national champion Alan Cooke. "I got a lot of easy points from him."

Former European champion Jorgen Persson was the only Swede to struggle, losing in three games to Preen and hanging on to defeat Cooke 24-22, 26-24 in the final match.

West Germany's Steffen Fetzner, enjoying one of the best periods of his career, did not drop a game in contributing two victories to the win which put the nation into the final for only the second time. They lost to Sweden in the 1980 final.

"I think the Swedish players might be a bit frightened about the final especially as none of them, except Appelgren, has really played so well here," said Fetzner who last year won the world doubles title with Joerg Rosskopf.

Rosskopf himself added two victories, beating 1.90-metre tall Zoran Kalinic 22-20, 23-25, 21-15 and Zoran Primorac 21-19, 21-17.

With the defending women's champions the Soviet Union knocked out of the medals reckoning in the round-robin stage, Czechoslovakia, the silver medalists in Paris two years ago, set up a final against Hungary.

NBA basketball roundup

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Kevin McHale had 24 points and 13 rebounds to lead a balanced Boston attack and the Celtics continued their run at first place in the NBA's Atlantic Division by posting their fourth straight victory, a 112-96 decision over New Jersey.

Reggie Lewis added 21 points, Larry Bird had 19 and Robert Parish 18 points and 10 rebounds as the Celtics took the lead for good in the first quarter Tuesday night and won for the eighth time in 11 games.

Dominique Wilkins scored 29 points and Moses Malone added 23 as Atlanta snapped a three-game losing streak and pulled within one-half game of Cleveland in the battle for the eighth and last Eastern Conference playoff berth, beating Philadelphia 123-111.

John Battle added 19 points and Rivers 18 for Atlanta while Hersey Hawkins had 27 and Charles Barkley 24 for Philadelphia.

Akeem Olajuwon scored 27 points and pulled down 19 rebounds and Houston, battling for a playoff berth, cartailed a late comeback by Charlotte, winning 115-112. The Rockets entered the game trailing Seattle by 1 1/2 games and Denver by one-half game for the final Western Conference playoff spot.

The Rockets led 109-100 with 55 seconds remaining but 3 points by Richard Anderson, Dell Curry, Anderson and Kelly Tripucka put Charlotte within two with five seconds left.

Isiah Thomas scored 21 points and Mark Aguirre 20 and Detroit outscored New York 30-17 in the first 10 minutes of the third quarter to win 108-98. The Pistons led only 51-49 at halftime but they made 12 of their first 17 shots in the first 10 minutes of the third period and opened an 81-66 lead.

Patrick Ewing scored 26 points and Gerald Wilkins 19 for New York.

Clyde Drexler's 26 points was followed by Jerome Kersey's 22 in Portland's 106-94 victory over Minnesota. The Trail Blazers won their 54th game, second most in the franchise's history. Portland won 58-24 in 1977-78.

Portland also won for the eighth time in its last 11 road games and has 21 road victories, the most since the 1977-78 club went 22-19. Ricky Pierce sank four free throws in the final 25 seconds and Milwaukee outscored Orlando 9-2 during the last two minutes in handing the Magic their 10th straight loss, 130-127. Pierce scored 31 points and Brad Lohaus and Jay Humphries added 23 and 21, respectively, as the Bucks won their fourth straight game. Orlando lost for the 26th time in its last 28 games despite 29

points by Terry Catledge and 27 by Reggie Theus.

Detlef Schrempf hit a 15-footer to give Indiana the lead for good with 23.4 seconds left and Chuck Person added two free throws with 5.6 seconds left, lifting Indiana to its third straight victory and putting Indiana close to the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Person led six pacers in double figures with 25 points. Reggie Miller added 19, Rik Smits 18 and Vern Fleming 16. Washington's Bernard King had 35, Darrell Walker 18 and Jeff Malone 16.

Karl Malone's 33 points and John Stockton's 20 assists sparked Utah to a franchise record 52nd victory. Seattle's loss, combined with Houston's victory over Charlotte, dropped the Sonics one-half game behind the Rockets in the battle for the final Western Conference playoff slot.

Thurl Bailey added 22 points for Utah and Bobby Hansen added 14. Dale Ellis led the Sonics with 30 points and Xavier McDaniel added 22. The Jazz wrapped it up with a 10-2 run in the final 2:11.

Blair Rasmussen scored a season-high 26 points and Denver took advantage of a three-minute scoring drought by Sacramento. The Kings went 3-10 without scoring until Pervis Ellison's layup with 51 seconds remaining.

The Nuggets managed five points during Sacramento's scoreless stretch, giving them a 112-106 lead, and they scored 13 of their final 15 points from the foul line.

Alex English scored 23 points and Michael Adams 19 for the Nuggets. Danny Ainge led Sacramento with 22 and Wayman Tisdale and Rodney McCray each scored 21.

Rookie centre David Robinson scored 36 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in leading San Antonio to its 50th victory, the sixth 50-win season in franchise history. San Antonio, which went 21-61 in 1988-89, is 29 games ahead of its record at this time last year. If the Spurs can win four of their remaining six games they will eclipse the NBA-record 32-game turnaround of the 1979-80 Boston Celtics.

Rookie forward Sean Elliott added 23 points and six assists for San Antonio. The Warriors were led by Chris Mullin's 26 points and Terry Teague's 20.

Tom Garretts scored 17 points and the Clippers rallied from an 18-point second-half deficit. Derek Harper led the Mavericks with 30 points and Rolando Blackman added 23 but Dallas was outscored 34-16 in the fourth quarter.

Charles Smith and Benoit Benjamin scored 16 points each for the Clippers, who trailed 56-38 with 11:41 left in the third quarter. They closed the gap to 74-64 at the end of the period, and a 14-4 run to start the fourth quarter tied the score 78-78 with 7:22 left.

Portugal bids to host '98 World Cup

PARIS (AP) — The head of soccer's international ruling body said Wednesday that Portugal will be a fifth candidate to host the 1998 World Cup.

Joao Havelange, president of the world soccer federation, known by the French initials FIFA, said he had met with Portugal's president and premier and, "both confirmed that their country wanted to be a candidate for the organization of the 1998 World Cup."

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Lendl, Edberg advance in Japan Open

TOKYO (Agencies) — Top-seed Ivan Lendl, playing just 20 hours after arriving in Tokyo, and second-seeded Stefan Edberg Wednesday won their singles matches easily to advance to the third round of the \$1.15 million Japan Open tennis tournament.

Lendl, the world's top-ranked player, beat Shuzo Matsuoka, Japan's no. 1 player, 6-4, 6-2 on the hard court of Tokyo's Ariake colosseum.

Sweden's Edberg, ranked second in the world, overwhelmed American Leif Shiras 6-0, 6-2 in their second-round match.

In other second-round matches in men's singles, third-seeded Brad Gilbert beat U.S. compatriot Brad Pearce 1-6, 6-1, 6-0, fourth-seeded Aaron Krickstein beat American compatriot David Pate 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) and Patrick McEnroe, the younger brother of John McEnroe, beat fellow American Paul Chamberlin 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

In the women's second-round matches, top-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden beat Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 7-5, 6-2 and Japan's Kumiko Okamoto upset fourth-seeded Betsy Nagelsen of the United States 6-1, 6-2.

The men's singles winner gets \$137,500 and the women's singles champion earns \$27,000.

Matsuoka and Lendl each kept service through the eighth game. Lendl won love-games in the fourth and eighth. He also broke Matsuoka in the ninth, as the Japanese player, trailing 15-30, committed and unforced error with a long forehand.

Lendl broke the third game after two deuces in the second set, and broke the seventh game.

Matsuoka and Lendl each hit 60 per cent of their first serves, but Matsuoka committed 12 unforced errors against 11 for Lendl.

"Since I met him four years ago, he has improved a lot,"

New coach for UAE to take over two months before world games

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira officially took over the reins of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) national team Tuesday and promptly promised he will tell his players "to enjoy themselves at the World Cup finals" in Italy.

Parreira is the third coach in three months since first Mario Zagalo, also a Brazilian, and Bernard Blaut, a Pole, were asked to leave the job.

Parreira is no stranger to the UAE having coached its national side for four years until 1988 when he moved over to Saudi Arabia.

The 47-year-old Brazilian quit the Saudi job in January this year and last month accepted the UAE coaching assignment again.

Speaking to reporters on the occasion of his takeover, Parreira breathed optimism into a team that suffered a humiliating experience at the recent Gulf Cup championship in Kuwait.

Not only did UAE finish last, but it was also thrashed 6-1 by

eventual winners Kuwait.

"You can't compare the Gulf Cup and the Asian qualifying tournament in Singapore. In Singapore, the team played each game according to its requirements so that the UAE could qualify," said Parreira, who has spent almost 15 years coaching in the Middle East.

He was the coach to the Kuwaiti World Cup squad which played in the 1982 World Cup games in Spain.

"I am not interested in getting to the second round now," he said. "I don't want to put pressure on my players. I will tell them to enjoy themselves in Italy and play the best football they can. We owe it to the Arab and Asian countries whom we represent."

The UAE is moving to Qatar this week for a two-week training camp. They will return to the UAE for a three-day break to celebrate the Muslim feast of Eid Al Fitr, ending the fasting month of Ramadan, and then take to France for the last stage of their preparation programme.

Parreira said that the UAE will try to play several matches against countries which are taking part in the World Cup finals like France, Greece and Turkey as warm-up matches.

Before Parreira took over, the UAE side played a number of exhibition matches against Middle East and European countries at home.

UAE are in Group D of the finals along with West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia.

Parreira said that the two months remaining before the finals which start on June 8 is "suitable." But, he added, "of course, it would have been better if the team had continued training after the Gulf Cup."

The national squad has not trained together for a month, with the resignation of interim coach Blaut immediately after the Kuwait tournament, throwing a spanner into the works. The team went to France for a short medical visit last month but did not train there.

Graf returns from injury with victory

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Steffi Graf felt fine and played even better Tuesday when she ended a two-month layoff from tennis with an impressive debut in the Bausch and Lomb championships.

The world's top-ranked player, sidelined since Feb. 6 with a broken thumb, needed only 45 minutes to beat Petra Langrova 6-1, 6-0 in a second-round match.

She said her right thumb, broken in a skiing accident in Switzerland, was not a problem and predicted the time she spent away from the tour will help, mentally and physically, in the long run.

"I missed maybe two or three tournaments, but I don't think it hurts me at all," Graf said. "I felt good about it. It should keep me fresh for other tournaments."

The highlight of the match for Langrova, ranked no. 63, was

breaking Graf's serve in the third game of the first set. She didn't think she was intimidated but conceded she didn't expect much of herself.

"I didn't think I had any chance," said Langrova, who beat Penny Barg-Mager 6-0, 6-0 in the first round. "She played with great confidence, and I made a lot of mistakes."

The match was the first for Graf since Feb. 4, when she beat Arantza Sanchez Vicario the final

of the Pan Pacific Open in Japan. Graf fell on her right hand trying to evade photographers at St. Moritz, Switzerland two days later and originally hadn't planned to return until April 30.

Winning at Amelia Island this week would be especially satisfying for Graf because she's lost here to Gabriela Sabatini each of the last two years. Sabatini, seeded no. 2, defeated Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-2, 6-1 in their second-round match Tuesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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READ 'EM AND CHEER

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A J 7 2
♥ J 10 7 3
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ A 5 4
WEST
♠ 10 8 7 6 2
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 7
♣ J 10 7 2
EAST
♠ K 9 4 3
♥ 5
♦ A J 10 9 2
♣ Q 6 3
SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A K Q 8 6
♦ Q 5 4
♣ K 9 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠
Bridge books will tell you that you need 26-27 points, including distribution, to make game in a major suit. Here, the North-South assets in high cards alone total 29 with a nine-card fit, yet game was anything but laydown.

These days, an excellent five-card major suit is no reason to forgo making a descriptive opening bid of one no trump. North checked on a

possible heart fit, and leaped to game when he located it.
South was Sylvia Hazen of New York. West's diamond lead was ducked in dummy and East's nine was taken by the queen. (Note that, if East rises with the ace and gives partner a ruff, declarer can claim the contract—dummy's diamond king will provide a parking spot for one of her losers.) Declarer drew three rounds of trumps, led a club to the ace and returned a club from dummy. East carefully inserted the queen to avoid being endplayed. Declarer won the king and exited with a club to West's ten.

When West shifted to a spade, declarer was at the crossroads—she had to decide between an endplay and a finesse. South guessed the situation perfectly by going up with the ace of spades and returning the suit to East's king. The defense was deadener than a doornail.

If East returned a black suit, declarer would discard a diamond from hand while ruffing on the board. And a diamond would be up to the table's king. Either way, Mrs. Hazen had limited her losers to one spade, one club and one diamond.

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Radical Soviet Communist leader demands immediate party split

MOSCOW (R) — A leader of a powerful bloc of Soviet Communist radicals, under siege by party conservatives, demanded Wednesday an immediate split in the ranks and the formation of a new Social Democratic Party.

Ilya Chubais said attacks on the reformist Democratic Platform movement represented a coup by leading conservative Yegor Ligachev and his allies and the start of a witch hunt.

"We call on all Communists to leave the party, to stop paying dues and join the new Party of the Democratic Platform," Chubais, a member of the group's Coordinating Council, said in an interview.

Chubais's comments were in response to an "open letter" from the policy-making Central Committee, still largely in the hands of party conservatives, which blasted the Democratic Platform and awakened fears of a purge.

"We have concluded that what has taken place is a Ligachev-conservative coup of the party leadership," said Chubais.

Soviet television's main nightly new bulletin on Tuesday broadcast the text of the open letter. "The time has come to decide what to do about those who put themselves outside the party. How can they stay in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union?" it said.

The letter indicated that the next party congress — scheduled to open on July 3 after being brought forward twice — would be a battlefield between the left and right wings.

A Democratic Platform congress is set for late May but Chubais said the attacks by the Central Committee might force the group to act more quickly.

Platform leaders put its numbers at well over 100,000 including many of the most prominent Soviet reformers, and chapters are active in 100 Soviet cities.

Democratic Platform members in the past have said they did not seek an immediate split in the party and would instead fight to take control of the congress, which elects the Central Committee and adopts social and economic policy.

The open letter, however, suggested that the leadership was seeking to control the party ranks ahead of the crucial congress.

"It is important that delegates to the Congress are convinced Communists," it said.

The reading of the letter — repeated on television on Wednesday — follows recent attacks on reformers within the party by Ligachev and other conservatives.

Ligachev Sunday accused the leadership under President Mikhail Gorbachev of weakness towards the radicals and demanded it get rid of them immediately.

"There are forces in the party that oppose socialism," Ligachev said.

In Byelorussia, a hot-bed of conservatism, the leadership has already announced a purge of Democratic Platform members.

Chubais told Reuters he had been expelled from his local party organisation Tuesday.

"Any transformation of the Communist Party has come to an end. It cannot be transformed and those of us who have no illusions must act energetically and quickly," he said.

Democratic Platform, whose leadership includes populist Boris Yeltsin, historian Yuri Afanasyev and economist Gavril Popov, has been debating since its formation in January whether to break with the National Party and form a Social Democratic Party.

If a split occurs, it could be more serious than the break with the Baltic parties because it likely would take a small layer of the most progressive party members from across the Soviet Union, thereby forming a nationwide opposition.

Nepalese king withdraws from active participation in politics

KATHMANDU, Nepal (Agencies) — King Birendra has withdrawn from active participation in politics and wants the government to heal the wounds caused by a crackdown on Nepal's pro-democracy movement, Foreign Minister Pashupati Rana said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, state-run radio announced that all charges would be dropped against activists arrested since the movement began on Feb. 18. The opposition estimates about 300 political prisoners are in jail.

Rana's statement was the first on the king's role in Nepal's new multiparty system, which Birendra approved Sunday.

Rana said a leftist party and a left-wing coalition continued negotiations on forming a provisional government.

The Nepal Congress Party and the United Left Front said Tuesday they would not participate in the government if the present partyless National Assembly, the Rashtriya Panchayat, was not dissolved. The two parties led the seven-week pro-democracy campaign that forced Birendra to establish a multiparty system.

Political parties were banned in Nepal 29 years ago when the democratically elected govern-

ment headed by the Nepali Congress Party was sacked by Birendra's father, Mahendra. It ended Nepal's only experiment with a Western-style democracy.

The Nepal Congress Party went underground and continued to campaign for multiparty democracy. A left-wing coalition joined Nepal Congress on Feb. 18, setting off a popular movement supported by academicians, doctors, engineers, pilots and peasants.

A government crackdown Friday left at least 200 people dead, witnesses said. The government said 10 people were killed and 107 injured.

"For one and a half months a period of barbarism, of great casualties, of great loss of lives has gone through this country. We want to heal these wounds to soothe anybody's feelings wherever they are hurt," Rana said.

Rana said the king, by deleting a reference to partylessness in the constitution, has "relinquished participation in active politics."

But the state-run radio continued to refer to the government as His Majesty's government on Wednesday. In an afternoon news programme, it said "His Majesty's government has decided to withdraw by Friday all criminal cases against those

arrested during the (pro-democracy) movement."

To a question on the king tolerating criticism in the future, Rana said "freedom of expression has been established... it is more likely that there would be praise of the king."

Under Nepalese law, the press or citizens are not allowed to criticise the institution of monarchy and the royal family, although criticism of the government is tolerated.

Birendra, 44, is the heir of the Shah Dynasty that has held the throne since the middle of the 18th century. Many Nepalis, especially illiterate farmers who compromise the bulk of this country's 17 million people, view him as the reincarnation of Hindu god, Vishnu.

Rana has also promised a free press in the Himalayan kingdom. "The ban on all newspapers will be removed. All foreign newspapers can come in. You are free to write whatever you want," Rana told a news conference Tuesday.

"The judicial commission will have the full scope of powers to suggest any kind of punishment on anyone who committed excesses," he said of the probe, which is to be headed by a supreme court judge.

China closes border cities; travellers report deaths

PEKING (R) — China has closed several towns in its northwest frontier region to foreigners amid unconfirmed reports of bloody riots between Muslim ethnic minorities and Chinese.

A Xinjiang region spokesman, contacted by telephone from Peking, Wednesday gave the first official confirmation that Kashgar and other oasis cities along the old silk road had been closed to foreigners.

He dismissed as "rumour" Western media reports that riots had broken out last week between Islamic minorities and Chinese in a town near Kashgar and that troops sent to quell them had killed around 50 people.

However, the April 4 edition of the official Xinjiang Daily, reaching Peking Wednesday, reported a crackdown on separatist activities in the region.

It said the Communist Party had "comprehensively suppressed an illegal organisation bent on splitting the unity of the

motherland" in Yili, an area along the border with the Soviet Union.

Accounts of riots near Kashgar could not be independently confirmed but, if accurate, described the worst violence seen in China since troops crushed democracy demonstrations in Peking last June with heavy loss of life.

Xinjiang's mountains and deserts, covering an area three times the size of France, are home to about 15 million people. Half are ethnic minorities sharing the Islamic faith with Muslims living across a long border with the Soviet Union's recently rebellious Asian republics.

The fabled silk road city of Kashgar, around which the anti-Chinese riots are reported to have erupted, is some 500 kilometres southwest of the Yili Valley mentioned in the Xinjiang Daily.

The newspaper report did not say where or how the "illegal organisation" operated or how it

was suppressed. The report was the first official indication of unrest in Xinjiang last week.

It blamed the trouble on "hostile foreign forces" and said that education had been strengthened among Communist cadres and the broad masses to heighten vigilance against separatists.

Mohammad, an official at the foreign affairs office in Xinjiang's regional capital Urumqi, told Reuters by telephone that several cities had been closed to foreigners.

"Facilities are very bad now for receiving foreign guests in Kashgar and other cities," Mohammad said. Aksu, Khotan and Kuqa, other Muslim dominated towns in the west Xinjiang, were also closed but Urumqi was still open.

A Japanese businessman arriving in Peking from Urumqi Wednesday said he had been warned by his driver not to venture into the bazaar area of the city because of "rioting by minority nationalities."

Greek conservative government takes over

ATHENS (R) — Greece's first conservative government since 1981 took office Wednesday after winning elections on pledges to roll back eight years of Socialist rule.

Constantine Mitsotakis, 71, leader of the conservative New Democracy Party, was sworn in as prime minister by President Christos Sartzetakis at the presidential palace in central Athens.

The 39-member cabinet, all from the New Democracy Party, was then sworn in and the government immediately met to begin charting its new course for Greece.

Mitsotakis won 150 seats in the 300-strong parliament in last Sunday's elections. He then secured the backing of a centrist deputy, giving him a paper-thin 151 majority and a base to start carrying out his ambitious economic programme.

It is Greece's first single-party government since the Socialist Party Pasok lost power last June in a crushing election defeat after being dragged down by financial and political scandals.

Since June Greece has been ruled by two weak coalition governments, and decisions on all major policy, domestic and foreign, have been frozen.

Antonis Samaras, Harvard-educated and a rising star in the New Democracy Party, was named foreign minister. He held the post in an all-party government formed last November and was finance minister in a coalition government after the June election.

George Souflias was named national economy minister, a job he held after the June vote, and will be in charge of sweeping reforms to deal with a severe economic crisis.

The economy has been staggering under heavy debts and the highest inflation, 16.5 per cent annually, in the European Community. The EC has told Greece "drastic and immediate" economic measures were needed.

Kashmiri militants kill 2 more hostages

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Kashmiri militants fighting Indian rule have killed all three men they kidnapped in an effort to free colleagues from jail, police said Wednesday.

The secessionists spectacularly killed one hostage near Indian Kashmir's police headquarters Tuesday afternoon. Police said the bodies of the two others were found dumped in a Srinagar suburb late Tuesday night.

The two bodies were identified early Wednesday as those of University of Kashmir Vice-Chancellor Musheer Ul Haq and his private secretary, police said.

Security forces promptly launched a massive hunt for the killers across the Kashmir Valley, where all towns have been under constant curfew since the three men were kidnapped in two separate incidents Friday.

Witnesses in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, said troops cordoned off some areas, told people to leave their houses and then searched them.

Police said the bodies of Musheer Ul Haq and his secretary, Abdul Gani, were found by a suburban roadside. They were not able to say immediately how they had been killed.

University sources in New De-

li said Musheer Ul Haq had told colleagues during a visit to the capital last month that his term was over and he wanted to leave Kashmir, but the government had told him to stay on three more months.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front (JKSLF), one of 30 groups fighting Indian rule of the country's only Muslim-majority state, claimed responsibility for the kidnappings and demanded the release of three detained colleagues in exchange for the hostages.

The government, heavily criticised after freeing militants in December in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of new Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, had shown no signs of conceding.

The first of the three hostages to die was H.L. Khara, the Hindu manager of a state-run factory.

Muslim militants drove through curfew-bound Srinagar in broad daylight, threw him out of the car near state police headquarters and killed him in a burst of automatic gunfire.

There has been no official explanation of how they were able to drive into one of Srinagar's most heavily guarded areas, kill their hostage, then vanish.

Pilots recall Battle of Britain

LONDON (AP) — The aircraft that fought in the Battle of Britain are ready again, with the crackle of gunfire and the voice of wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill on recordings to remember it all 50 years ago.

"We had to fight the Germans and that was it. We were all young and we had no idea that we were making history," said one-time Spitfire pilot Desmond Sheen at a preview Tuesday of the largest exhibition of the anniversary year.

The former flyer and other survivors of the airman whom Churchill called "the few" wandered around their old aircraft and those of their German ene-

mies at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Museum at Hendon in north London.

From Wednesday through Oct. 31, visitors to "the Battle of Britain experience" can get some idea of what those combats in the sky must have been like over the four months from July through October 1940. A Hurricane and a Spitfire face a Messerschmitt 109, Heinkel 111 and Junkers 87 Stuka divebomber.

Sheen, 72, an Australian from Canberra who was twice shot down, once went into action three times on one day from Beggin Hill Airfield in Kent as the Germans swept in from the captured fields of northeast

France.

"The German fighter pilots were better trained than we were because they had seen action in the Spanish Civil War and their tactics were better, too," he said in an interview.

"We had not been trained to attack fighters, only bombers, because the Air Ministry did not think that German bombers would have fighter escorts."

Spitfire pilot Maurice Pocock, a Briton who was 20 in 1940, said he trained in 1938 after seeing a newspaper advertisement that said: "Learn to fly free."

He recalled the Spitfire as an "incredible aeroplane — it had so much power."

Top U.S. aide meets Aquino

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A senior U.S. official met Wednesday with President Corazon Aquino and said ties between Manila and Washington continue to be strong.

Asst. Secretary of State Richard Solomon was the first senior American official to meet Mrs. Aquino since she had refused to meet Defence Secretary Dick Cheney last February because she was angry about critical reporting of her administration in the U.S. media.

"The fundamental is our support of democracy here and we feel there is a strong basis of shared interest in security cooperation and we look forward to negotiations on the bases as part of that broader relationship," Solomon told reporters after his hour-long meeting.

The lease on Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations expires next year. Talks on extending the agreement are scheduled to begin on May 14.

Asked for his assessment of U.S.-Philippine ties in view of negative reports about graft and corruption in the Aquino administration, Solomon said: "I think they are basically very solid."

Solomon also said the Soviet military threat was never a primary focus of security cooperation with the Philippines, a former U.S. colony. Some Filipino officials have called for a U.S. pullout because of the warming of relations between Moscow and the West.

After an earlier meeting with Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, Solomon said talks on the future of the bases will be "intense."

The Philippines is among the five largest recipients of U.S. economic aid, and several U.S. congressmen have predicted dramatic reductions in assistance if the bases are closed.

In Washington, the White House has announced that the U.S. negotiating panel would be led by Richard L. Armitage, an Asian affairs specialist and for-

mer Defence Department official. Manglapus will be the chief Philippine negotiator.

Any agreement must be approved by two-thirds of the 25-member Senate, where opposition to the bases is strong. Mrs. Aquino has also expressed unhappiness over a \$96-million cut Congress made in the U.S. administration's request of \$360 million to compensate the Philippines for the use of the bases.

Because of the political sensitivity of the bases issue, Filipino officials have described the upcoming session as "exploratory talks," after which they will decide whether to move to formal negotiations.

Solomon said he believed the exploratory talks will lead to formal negotiations. But a senior Filipino official, who is involved in the bases issue, told reporters "that is his (Solomon's) own perception. We can't decide before the exploratory talks."

The official spoke on condition he not be named.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Peacekeepers arrive in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — U.N. peacekeeping troops have arrived in Honduras to begin disbanding the Nicaraguan rebels. Meanwhile, the leftist Sandinistas warned that could be renewed fighting. A contingent of 170 Venezuelan paratroopers arrived Tuesday in Honduras, where the rebels, known as contras, have base camps. Their Spanish commander, Gen. Augustin Quesada Gomez, said Venezuela will send a total of 700 soldiers. They will be joined by troops from several other countries. The United Nations Observer Force will supervise the demobilisation in both Honduras and Nicaragua and the destruction of the rebels' U.S.-supplied arms. The contras on Nicaraguan territory are supposed to gather in "safety zones" once the U.N. peacekeeping force can ensure a ceasefire. An estimated 9,000 contras have returned to Nicaragua in recent months, leaving the Honduran camps almost deserted.

7 ethnic ministers quit in Kosovo

BELGRADE (R) — The regional premier and six ethnic Albanian ministers have resigned in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province, the newspaper Borba said Wednesday. Their resignations followed a crackdown by the Republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is part.

Jaruzelski arrives for Soviet visit

MOSCOW (R) — Polish president Wojciech Jaruzelski arrived Wednesday in the western Ukrainian city of Lvov — once a part of Poland — for the start of an official visit, the Soviet News Agency TASS said. Jaruzelski, here at the invitation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, arrived as solidarity leader Lech Walesa launched his campaign to replace the general as Poland's president. The Communist Party daily Pravda said the visit, and talks between Jaruzelski and Gorbachev, would "promote the development and consolidation of friendly relations between the USSR and Poland."

Tanks deployed in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — Tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved into the Pakistani city of Karachi Wednesday to guard against violence following the death of a leading political activist shot last week. Three tanks and eight armoured personnel carriers took up position not far from the Aga Khan Hospital before a hospital spokesman announced that activist Najib Ahmad had died. Ahmad, a leading figure in the student wing of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), had been on a life support system since being shot last Friday. At least 19 people died after the attack sparked a weekend of violence between PPP supporters and the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) that dominates this port city of eight million people. Troops and paramilitary rangers have been patrolling Karachi since Monday to try to contain violence, fuelled by the easy availability of Kalashnikov assault rifles in Pakistan.

Hungary reports rise in refugee influx

BUDAPEST (R) — Almost 200 refugees a day are crossing into Hungary from Romania's Transylvania region, up five times since ethnic clashes killed three people last month, the daily Magyar Hirlap reported Wednesday. The Hungarian media called the clashes between Romanian nationalists and ethnic Hungarian residents in the Transylvanian town of Tirgu Mures a pogrom. Magyar Hirlap said that before the clashes only 30 to 40 refugees had crossed the border each day. More than two million of Romania's population are ethnic Hungarians and many live in Transylvania, a former Hungarian territory. Hungary has complained that Romania's new leaders are dragging their feet over restoring human and minority rights to the ethnic Hungarians, who were exposed to severe assimilation policies under the late Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. Most of the new arrivals are intellectuals who feel compelled to leave Romania for their children's security, Magyar Hirlap said.

Study reports link between job stress and heart changes

CHICAGO (AP) — Job stress can lead to high blood pressure and cause potentially dangerous physical changes in the heart, according to a new study of male workers.

The findings are based on a study of 215 men ages 30 to 60 at seven work sites in New York City, including a stock-brokerage firm, private hospital and garbage collection facility, researchers wrote in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Job strain resulted when workers felt they faced high psychological demands without having much control over day-to-day decisions, said Dr. Peter Schnall, the lead researcher at Cornell University Medical College in New York.

Twenty-one per cent of the subject suffered job strain, and faced about a three times greater risk of having high blood pressure than those who did not experience job strain, said Carl Pieper, a Cornell statistician.

All men ages 30 to 40 years old with high stress jobs had a "clinically significant" thickening of the heart's left ventricle, or chamber, a condition that often pre-

cedes coronary disease and heart attacks, Pieper said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Their heart muscles were an average of 20 grammes bigger than those without job stress, a substantial difference but still within normal range, Schnall said.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a psychological variable based on job characteristics has been found to be related to both hypertension and anatomic increases in heart mass," the researchers wrote.

"If our model is correct, job situations where the level of work demands exceeds the individual's ability to control or deal with those demands creates a challenge that activates the sympathetic nervous system and leads to an elevation of blood pressure at work."

"Long-term exposure (over years) to job strain is hypothesised to ultimately result in a sustained elevation of blood pressure that then causes structural change in the cardiovascular system," they wrote.

While the notion that psychological factors can physically affect the body is not new, it is viewed with skepticism by some medical

authorities, Dr. Redford B. Williams of Duke University Medical Centre said in an accompanying editorial.

"If these results are considered along with the growing contributions of neuroscience to our understanding of how the brain speaks to the body's organs, perhaps the idea that the brain plays a role in physical disease will soon seem less 'revolutionary' and more like 'normal science,'" Williams said.

The men studied had all worked in the same job for at least three years, none was more than 20 per cent overweight and none had suffered heart disease before the study began in 1986. Eighty-one per cent were white, the remaining were mostly blacks, and 87 had high blood pressure at the start of the study.

The authors concluded that job strain was "significantly related" to high blood pressure and increased heart mass after adjusting for factors such as age, alcohol intake and smoking.

"We're not showing that job strain is causing heart disease," Schnall said. "What we're showing is that job strain is causing a change in muscle mass" that could lead to disease.

COLUMN

Kennedy classmates admire Gorbachev more

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (R) — Former classmates in Harvard College's class of 1940 admire the late U.S. President John Kennedy less than Mikhail Gorbachev. Kennedy, president from 1961 to 1963, did not even make the top 10 in the poll asking class members which figures of the last 50 years they admired most. Winston Churchill and Harvard graduate Franklin Roosevelt, the leaders of Britain and the United States at the time the class graduated, were the first and second most admired figures. The Soviet leader was sixth on the list. Kennedy was 14th — behind Eleanor Roosevelt, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher — and just ahead of American composer Leonard Bernstein.

Woman married deceased fiancé

CRICQUEBOEUF, France (AP) — A woman whose fiancé died nearly a year ago married him anyway last weekend in a ceremony that made her a wedded woman for 24 hours. Town officials said Tuesday. Anne-Marie Bernicot was married Saturday to Pierre-Jean Canon, for reasons she did not reveal. She was declared a widow Sunday. Canon, 59, died May 22, 1989, of an undisclosed illness just days before his scheduled wedding to Miss Bernicot, 35, the officials said. In an exception to the civil code that provides for posthumous marriages for military and pregnant women, Miss Bernicot was given permission to marry her deceased fiancé. She did so in a brief civil ceremony at Mayor Jean Gaston's office, wearing a black and white suit, gloves and a black hat. Gaston, a family friend and lawyer at the Paris Appeals Court, used his influence to help her get married. The mayor said that the publication of intentions, required for marriage in France, and corroboration by witnesses showed Canon's willingness to have married. The final request received the required presidential signature in November.

Harison Ford buys a motorcycle

GREEN RIVER, Wyoming (AP) — Actor Harrison Ford, whose breathtaking chase scenes have characterised his role as film adventurer Indiana Jones, stopped in this southern Wyoming town last week and quietly bought a new motorcycle. Linda Stance, a clerk at the Harley-Davidson of Green River Motorcycle Shop, said Ford spent about 45 minutes Thursday buying a 1990 black and cream Heritage model Harley. Stance said Ford, who owns land near Jackson, called earlier in the week to ask if the shop carried the motorcycle. Told the bike was available, he said he would fly to the Rock Springs airport and would need a lift to the shop. Linda Laughlin, the shop's owner, gave Ford a ride from the airport to Green River.

Judge: Women don't mean no when it comes to sex

LONDON (AP) — An Old Bailey jury cleared a West German man of rape charges Tuesday after a judge told jurors that a woman who says "no" does not necessarily mean "no." "When women say no they don't always mean no," Judge Raymond Dean told the jurors in summing up the case. "Men can't turn their emotions on and off like a tap as some women can." German businessman Dieter Kemp, 39, testified that the alleged rape victim had consented to have sex with him at his west London apartment after drinking three bottles of champagne, some sake and smoking marijuana. The woman testified that Kemp had raped her despite her protests. After hearing Dean's instructions to the jury, Labour Party lawyer Audrey Wise said Dean should be removed from the bench. "A man who can say that when it comes to sexual intercourse... is just not competent to be a judge," she said. Kemp maintained the 29-year-old woman accused him of rape after he refused to pay her £10,000 (\$16,400) and would not allow her and her boyfriend to move into his apartment. No forensic evidence was submitted to the jury, but they heard that police found no bruising on the woman's body or any traces of tears on her clothing. The judge told the jury he agreed with their verdict.